

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
455,000

No 63,068

Eye-witness account of Gibraltar killings condemned as 'trial by television'

Howe fails to stop film on IRA bombers

By Richard Evans and Richard Ford in London
and Dominique Searle in Gibraltar

A television documentary suggesting that two of the three IRA bombers shot by the SAS in Gibraltar were trying to surrender when they were killed was screened last night in spite of strong Government pressure to postpone the programme.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, appealed to Lord Thomson of Monifieth, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), to delay showing the programme, *Thames Television's This Week* special on the ground that

it could prejudice the inquest into the death of the IRA bomber.

However, after taking legal advice and previewing the programme, Lord Thomson decided yesterday that it should go ahead. He denied it would prejudice the inquest.

Parliament 12

hearing, and argued that to postpone the programme would give the IRA more "oxygen of publicity".

The documentary features an interview with a translator, described in the film as Carmen Proetta, who witnessed the shootings on March 6. She claims that Mairead Farrell and Danny McCann, two of the IRA bombers, had their hands raised in the air as if "giving themselves up" when they were shot.

Her version of the event would appear to conflict with the statement given to the Commons by Sir Geoffrey after the Gibraltar incident. He told MPs that the bombers made suspicious movements which led British "military personnel" to believe their lives and others could be at risk.

The new evidence is likely to further strain relations between London and Dublin. Mr Peter Barry, the former Irish justice minister, said yesterday the British Government must bring those responsible to justice. "The actions of the security forces makes it very difficult for those of us who believe in the rule of law and who preach respect for it."

The *Thames* programme, "Death on the Rock", provoked a storm of controversy in the Commons last night with Conservative MPs joining Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in condemning the "trial by television".

But while Mr King claimed the 50-minute programme would prejudice the rights of witnesses at the inquest, opposition MPs led by Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, described Government attempts to postpone the broadcast as a further example of "ministerial arm twisting" against the press and media.

Sir Geoffrey spoke to Lord Thomson on Tuesday and

talked to another senior IBA official yesterday, but last night the IBA put out a lengthy statement justifying its decision.

"The IBA considers that the programme is a responsibly made documentary, which assesses and analyses the role of the terrorists and the SAS in a thorough manner."

"The IBA has taken the advice of counsel and has been told that transmission of the programme is not in contempt of court."

"The programme makes clear the full horror of the crimes committed by the IRA terrorists. The events of the Gibraltar shooting have already been the subject of wide journalistic investigation. The IBA believes that it would be unreasonable to deny further reporting of them to television."

"The IBA believes that the material in this programme is unlikely to prejudice the outcome of the inquest. Such material will be made available to the inquest."

"The IBA believes that to postpone the programme until after an inquest which is still apparently a long time away would give the IRA more 'oxygen of publicity', and would certainly not prevent it being shown elsewhere, for example in Parliament to interested MPs, or its contents being widely reported."

Although the Foreign Office last night criticised the IBA decision as "irresponsible", it ruled out seeking an injunction to prevent the documentary being broadcast, because legal action was not

Continued on page 22 col 2



Mrs Carmen Proetta at the window of her flat from where she claims she saw the shootings; right, flashback to the day of the killing.



Ex-soldier wins bomb test case

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A former soldier won the right in the House of Lords yesterday to sue the Government for damages. He suffers from cancer allegedly caused by radiation to which he was exposed while serving on Christmas Island during British nuclear tests in the 1950s.

The unanimous ruling by the five Law Lords in favour of Mr Melvyn Pearce, of Backwell, Bristol, a former lance corporal with the Royal Engineers, clears the way for similar claims by hundreds of other ex-servicemen who witnessed the atom bomb and hydrogen bomb tests in the Pacific.

The Law Lords dismissed an appeal by the Secretary of State for Defence and the Ministry of Defence in which they claimed they were protected by crown immunity.

Mr Pearce was among 25,000 servicemen in the Pacific area when 21 tests were carried out.

Mr Pearce claims he and fellow soldiers were allowed to swim in radioactive waters and eat contaminated fruit without being warned of the dangers.

Law Report, page 31

Bank tries to prevent seamen moving cash

By Tim Jones

A move was made in the High Court yesterday to prevent the National Union of Seamen thwarting any order sequestering its £2.8 million assets. It was thought the union may try to send the money out of the country.

In a surprise intervention in the action between the union and the Sealink ferry company, Mr George Newman QC, for the Midland Bank, said it had received "unusual" instructions from the union to deal with "substantial sums" either already in its account or coming into its account at the bank.

Mr Newman said the requests it had been receiving from the union within the last 24 hours "may be designed to defeat any writ of sequestration".

He said there would be substantial difficulties involved if funds were distributed outside the jurisdiction of the court "to all four corners of the world".

The Midland Bank had been involved in a similar problem in relation to attempts by the National Union of Mineworkers to keep its funds out of the hands of the sequestrators, Mr Newman said.

The intervention by the union's bankers came as Mr Justice Michael Davies gave

the union and Sealink until today to try to resolve their differences at talks with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Sealink, which alleges the union breached an earlier injunction banning it from interfering with its operations, was warned by the judge not to "blow hot and cold" on its sequestration move.

Advancing the parties to "talk and talk fast", Mr Justice

Dover families 2
Parliament 12

Davies said the parties had received a "Rolls-Royce" service from the court and they could not expect the court to be "kept dancing to the ACAS tune".

He said: "I acknowledge that Sealink has never sought to say it really wants the NUS put out of business by a writ of sequestration."

"But if that is their view, perhaps they should wonder to what extent they ought, in future, to use that as a threat and then not wish to pursue it."

In another High Court action, the NUS failed to gain an injunction preventing P&O European Ferries from recruiting non-union seamen. P&O was yesterday preparing

Ethics beat the taxman

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Inland Revenue was banned by the High Court yesterday from using statutory powers to force lawyers to hand over copies of clients' documents to further tax investigations.

In a ruling seen as of great importance to the legal profession, two judges held that copy documents in the Gray's Inn chambers of a barrister, Mr David Goldberg, QC, were protected by professional privilege. As a consequence, he was not obliged to release them to the Inland Revenue as ordered without his client's permission.

The ruling is a considerable blow to the Inland Revenue, which has agreed not to take further proceedings against Mr Goldberg for failing to comply with a notice to produce the documents. Yesterday a spokesman said it could not comment until it had studied the judgement. But it is thought to be considering an appeal.

Mr Goldberg's solicitor, Mr Stephen Cromie, said the ruling was important, not just for tax investigation cases, but for civil litigation generally. "It has never been entirely clear how far photocopies of documents supplied to a lawyer for the purposes of his giving

Continued on page 22, col 1

WIN £54,000

Portfolio

—PLUS NEW—

Accumulator

● The £4,000 daily prize was claimed yesterday, so the Portfolio Accumulator is now worth £54,000. Yesterday's winners, page 3

INSIDE

● STOCKWATCH, the most comprehensive share information service in Britain, has already attracted more than 10,000 members. It is free to *Times* readers. Full details on page 24.

NEXT WEEK

INGENUITY

● On Monday, *The Times* begins a new game of mental agility — with prizes worth more than £13,000. For a taste of INGENUITY, turn to page 12

THE TIMES RACING SERVICE

● Starting next Tuesday — the most complete and authoritative of all the racing guides, a telephone service that will provide red-hot information every racing day. Details on page 36.

IN PART 2

Classic encore

Ravinella, ridden by Gary Moore, gave France a second successive triumph in the 1,000 Guineas. Moore's father, George, won the race on Fleet in 1967. Page 37

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Minister warns investors

By Our City Staff

Key provisions of the Financial Services Act, offering protection to investors, come into force today — with a warning from Mr Francis Maude, the Minister for Corporate Affairs, that even under the new system it is still possible to lose money.

He said that even if the new regulatory framework had been in place during last October's stock market slide, nothing could have been done to safeguard the investor.

"While there will be better information than previously, there is no way to take risk out of investment business," Mr Maude said. Investor protection would, however, be "better".

He said Act directly affected most households.

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A-Day, page 27

Solidarity adopts hard line Polish strike threats spread

From Richard Bassett, Nowa Huta

Mr Zbigniew Szalajda, the Deputy Prime Minister, was also expected.

The strike at the Lenin mill involves some 13,000 workers. The strike committee, all of whom are members of Solidarity, are demanding the reinstatement of four dismissed Solidarity activists, a 50 per cent increase in hourly wages

and a doubling of the 6,000 zloty (about £28) payment the Government has already approved to compensate for last February's price increases.

The Government has reacted vigorously to these "unreasonable" claims and the Cracow Prosecutor's office issued a statement warning "all those engaged in unlawful activity in the mill" that they must be prepared to "take the legal consequences".

The strike committee's re-

sponse has been to present an ultimatum to the authorities: unless they come up with a "satisfactory" proposal by the early hours of today, the mill's entire workforce — 32,000 people — will go on strike.

Outside the vast plant the mood of the striking workers was defiant. "Just let them try," an old steelworker said of the authorities' threat of legal action. Workers of all ages were adamant that even if, as one put it, there is a "return to earlier times of conflict", the men would not give in.

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, issued a statement pledging the movement's support for "activities which defend the living standards of the population".

Solidarity's open support for the strikers at Nowa Huta, combined with the threat of strikes at Stalowa Wola, Cracow, Lodz and Torun are forcing the Government into a corner.

£3,000 gadget to help sufferers of chronic pain

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Long-suffering patients who get no relief from chronic pain can be helped by an electrical gadget implanted into their bodies, doctors were told yesterday.

The device, a dorsal column stimulator, could be a high technology answer when more orthodox treatments including surgery and drugs have failed. Once implanted, it can last up to five years and can be controlled by the patient using a form of radio transmitter or a magnet to switch it on and off.

The stimulator is slightly larger than a matchbox and works by releasing a low electrical charge which

triggers into action the nerves that inhibit pain.

First developed in the United States, the stimulator has recently been offered to a hundred or so patients in Britain and is being evaluated by specialists in clinical centres.

It was described yesterday to doctors attending the British Medical Association's annual scientific meeting, in Jersey, by Dr Tim Nash, a consultant anaesthetist and a leading specialist in pain relief.

"The question is how far patients who are severely disabled by pain are prepared to go to get relief," Dr Nash said.

"This is suitable only for a small group of people and it requires a lot of

time, trouble and medical follow-up. It is also very expensive and the costs alone will probably restrict its use."

The stimulator costs up to £3,000. After extensive tests and examinations, suitable patients have the device implanted behind their ribcage. When it is switched on they feel a "quite noticeable tingling sensation" as the electrical current is released.

There has been substantial relief for patients who have endured months or years of pain from conditions such as angina, back pain and leg aches related to heart disorders. Dr Nash said. It is also useful in assisting bladder control in sufferers of multiple sclerosis.

One of the potential problems of the device is the risk of infection once it is implanted, although Dr Nash said he

was not aware of any serious cases of infection resulting from its use.

Dr Nash, of Basingstoke district hospital, Hampshire, is a leading member of the Intractable Pain Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He told the conference that chronic pain produces "misery, loss of hope and self-esteem and social loneliness that leads to depression".

Studies suggested that chronic pain syndromes affected about 30 per cent of the population and 20 per cent were either partially or totally disabled for long periods.

"Research in the past 20 years has not led to much better understanding of most clinical pain conditions and it is high time that sound clinical research was given a high priority," Dr Nash said.

Kimbolton wins Times Mind quiz

By Alan Franks

A team of 10 pupils from Kimbolton School, a mixed public school in Cambridgeshire, has won the schools section of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind.

The team was one of two entered by the 520-pupil school. Nine other schools out of an initial entry of almost 300 reached the final. The prize is an IBM computer.

Kimbolton's winning team, which gave correct answers to all but one of the 45 questions in the final, was led by Adam Richardson, aged 17.

Mr Harold Gale, executive director of British Mensa, said yesterday that most schools in the final managed to answer 40 or more of the questions, and the lowest score was 38.

Mr Roger Peel, headmaster of Kimbolton School, said: "This is wonderful news for us all."

Spectrum, page 13

EBEL

Les Architectes du temps

-1911-

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Ruling reserved in rugby action

Mr Simon van Oppen, a former public schoolboy, could win £153,625 damages if the High Court finds that his old school was to blame for his crippling rugby injuries, it was disclosed yesterday. Mr Justice Boreham reserved judgement after hearing 26 days of evidence.

Mr van Oppen, aged 24, blames Bedford School for the spine injury he suffered after a head-on tackle went wrong in November 1980. He claims the school was negligent in not coaching him properly and in depriving him of compensation by not insuring him for accidental injury.

The school trustees deny the allegations. They have agreed, however, that Mr van Oppen, of Priory Lane, Roehampton, Surrey, will be entitled to £55,000 if it is found the school should have taken out insurance, and to the full amount if it was negligent in failing to coach him.

Call to ban all caning

The House of Lords is to be asked to ban caning in all public and other independent schools in line with the abolition of corporal punishment in state schools in August last year. Although Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, would prefer to leave the decision up to individual independent schools, there will be a strong challenge from peers to remove the anomaly, Lord Henderson of Brompton, has tabled an amendment to the Education Reform Bill inserting a new clause to extend the ban on corporal punishment to all schools.

Livingstone walk-out

Mr Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, withdrew from Parliament yesterday protesting at his lack of an office. He was being denied a desk and telephone because of his controversial views, he said, and was the only MP not to have those facilities. He said he would work from home, adding that it was impossible to serve his constituents in his present situation. Labour whips were waiting to see how his flouting of party discipline and the boycott operates in practice before deciding whether to take punitive action.

TV advert withdrawn

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, which gave £10,000 to the Conservative general election campaign, has withdrawn a television commercial for McEwan's lager which uses a song critical of the Government. The song "Happy Days", by The Shamen, an Aberdeen group, is about the Falklands conflict. In a reference to the sinking of the Belgrano, the lyric includes: "There is a ship on the sea, shall we send it down? It's only a toy in a tub, shall we sink it now?" The company is commissioning another song for the commercial, part of a £1 million campaign on Scottish television yet to start.

Ballot on UDM fund

Miners belonging to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers are being urged to vote for a political fund in a ballot being organized by the union. Mr Roy Lynk, UDM president, said that the union was not allowed to use general funds to put across its point of view on issues such as the privatization of the electricity industry. A political fund was needed to enable the union to campaign vigorously on all issues affecting the membership. The UDM, which has about 25,000 members, will announce the result of the ballot at its annual conference in Weymouth in June.

40-year home loans

The Woolwich Building Society yesterday unveiled a 40-year mortgage specifically aimed at first-time buyers. The Woolwich, which at 9.5 per cent has the lowest rate among building societies, says it is the only mortgage of such a length deliberately intended for this market. It has an age limit of 25. The monthly cost of a £30,000 mortgage falls from £216.03 over 25 years to £193.83 over 40 years.

Strike hits morale of Dover seamen's families

By Ronald Faux

The strike is biting hard into the morale of the seamen who refuse to accept the company's new terms and into the morale of their families. Mrs Liz Caley, whose husband, Colin, was a P&O steward on the Dover-Calais service, helped at the soup kitchen set up in the Salvation Army hall in the centre of Dover, where free meals are provided daily after school hours.

"I am afraid of what's going to happen, and what all this could mean. There are three of us, with our daughter, Sarah, who is 15, and there's a lot to pay every month; mortgage and food. There's now nothing coming in. There has been no redundancy, and we do not qualify for social security, because they say it's a dispute. We have had

People seeking to cross the Channel over the holiday weekend were warned yesterday not to go to the ports without ensuring in advance that they had a firm booking. These services are expected to operate: SEalink: Dover to Calais: eight sailings a day each way. Newhaven to Dieppe: three sailings a day each way. Weymouth to Cherbourg: one sailing a day each way. Portsmouth to Cherbourg: two sailings each way today and tomorrow; one each way on Monday. Harwich to the Hook of

Holland: two sailings a day each way. P&O: Dover to Ostende: seven ferry crossings a day each way and four Jetfoil crossings a day for foot passengers. These vessels are owned by the Belgian state-owned company, RMT, but P&O markets their operations in Britain. P&O expect to have one crossing a day from Portsmouth to Cherbourg, and three from Portsmouth to Le Havre. BRITANNY: Portsmouth to St Malo and Caen; Plymouth to

Roscoff: normal services, but all fully booked. SALLY LINES: Ramsgate to Dunkirk: five sailings a day each way. NORTH SEA FERRIES, which is a joint operation by P&O and the Dutch company, Nedlloyd, expect to have one sailing a day from Hull to either Rotterdam or Zeebrugge. HOVERSPEED: Dover to Calais: 13 crossings a day each way. Dover to Boulogne: five crossings a day each way.

focal point to all the families in the same position. "It's a relief to know we are all in the same boat, that we are not isolated. But, quite honestly, I would rather that it came to this than have Colin go back under P&O's terms. I don't think they have thought about safety at all, which is surprising after what happened to the Herald." Giving support to the strikers was Mrs Gail Cook, who was a stewardess in the Herald of Free Enterprise, but who had left after the disaster. "It's not my job on the line, but I support them a hundred per cent." Outside the Salvation Army hall hallstones bounced off the pavement. Inside, Mr Jim Smith, aged 52, a senior chief cook with P&O, prepared meals for more than 100 strikers, their wives and children at a "soup kitchen".

to sit down and add up all the assets and see what they will raise. It is desperately sad", she said.

Chief among them would be the family's terrace home in Dover, which was bought four years ago.

With the steep rise in house prices in the South-east, it is now worth nearly double the £19,000 they paid for it.

"The mortgage is about £180 a month, and that alone takes a big

lump out of the income. Colin earned about £160 a week, sometimes a bit more, depending on the shifts he worked."

She said the meeting place had been a godsend because it gave a

Benefit cuts restored for more groups

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Further changes to the new welfare regulations were announced yesterday to moderate losses to specific groups.

Six weeks after a minister said nothing could be done for 19-year-olds in full time education without parental support, they will now be helped.

Tory backbenchers want the Government to collect detailed information on the impact of the changes and to tackle any further anomalies in the autumn expenditure statement.

The MPs were determined not to embarrass the Government any further, although some remain concerned about the impact of the changes.

They will watch their post-bags and monitor the reaction at their constituency surgeries during the next few weeks and make further representations to ministers at the Department of Health and Social Security if necessary.

One backbencher said: "We don't want any more knee-jerk reactions and special payments. That would make us look ridiculous. The whole thing has to be assessed calmly in the summer as part of the public expenditure round."

Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister for Social Security, yesterday announced three further rule changes to give transitional

protection to vulnerable people on income-related benefits at a cost of about £1 million.

In a Commons written reply, Mr Scott said that the Government would provide transitional protection for disabled people, lone parents and pensioners who were receiving supplementary benefit under the old system but who were not entitled to new benefits because of changes in the rules relating to full-time work in the switch to the income support scheme.

Students who would have lost benefit when they became 19 would be protected from the effects of the change by payments from the special central unit in the DHSS.

In the Commons Mrs Thatcher called Wednesday's £100 million addition to the £46 billion social security budget "a modest adjustment but effective to deal with the problems".

Parliament, page 12
Leading article and letters, page 15

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Pupils reveal newspaper skills



Sir Alastair Burnet presenting awards to Neil Gibbs and Kerry Johnson, representing Sitwell Junior School, Rotherham, one of the winners of a newspaper competition organized by The Times Network Systems (Photograph: Alan Weller).

By Robin Young

Sir Alastair Burnet, a national director of Times Newspapers, yesterday presented prizes to the schools which produced the best newspapers in a competition organized by The Times Network Systems, an electronic communication and information service for schools and colleges to which more than 5,000 educational establishments subscribe.

First prize in the primary school section went to the Sitwell Star produced by Sitwell Junior School, Roth-

erham, South Yorkshire, where pupils aged seven to 11 had their teacher doubling as a television aerial so that they could download stories from the Ceefax and Oracle teletext news services into their computer software.

The Aston Comet produced by a group of mixed ability pupils aged 14 to 15 at Aston Comprehensive School, Swallowstone, Rotherham, which took first prize in the secondary school competition for under-15s, remade its front page after school hours to take in coverage of the avalanche at

Klosters, Switzerland, which hit the Prince of Wales's skiing party.

The winner in the open class, Freelance, produced by pupils at the Mortimer Wilson Comprehensive, Alfreton, Derbyshire, had a front page story about a police manhunt at a local beauty spot. An award for the best overseas entry went to Sadaden Secondary College, Alice Springs, Australia.

The panel of judges was chaired by Sir Edward Pickering, executive vice chairman

of News International. The next Newspaper Day competition, which TTNS is organizing will be for papers produced on September 29, during the Seoul Olympics.

● The first edition of *Reform* magazine, *Reform*, a national monthly tabloid aimed at the wealthier band of pensioners, will be published next month.

● A glossy "lifestyle" magazine, *Catalyst*, edited by Michael Parkinson, the journalist and television personality, was launched yesterday by Austin Rover.

RUMBELOWS PRESENT LEADING EDGE AUDIO TECHNOLOGY THE PIONEER S2MCD SYSTEM

AND FOR THE LESS TECHNICALLY MINDED

There are those who will be thrilled by the news that the S2MCD system has a PD-281M CD multiplay which holds and plays six discs with a 2 x oversampling digital filter and a twin D/A converter; not to mention a honeycomb chassis.

And there will be others who will just glaze over.

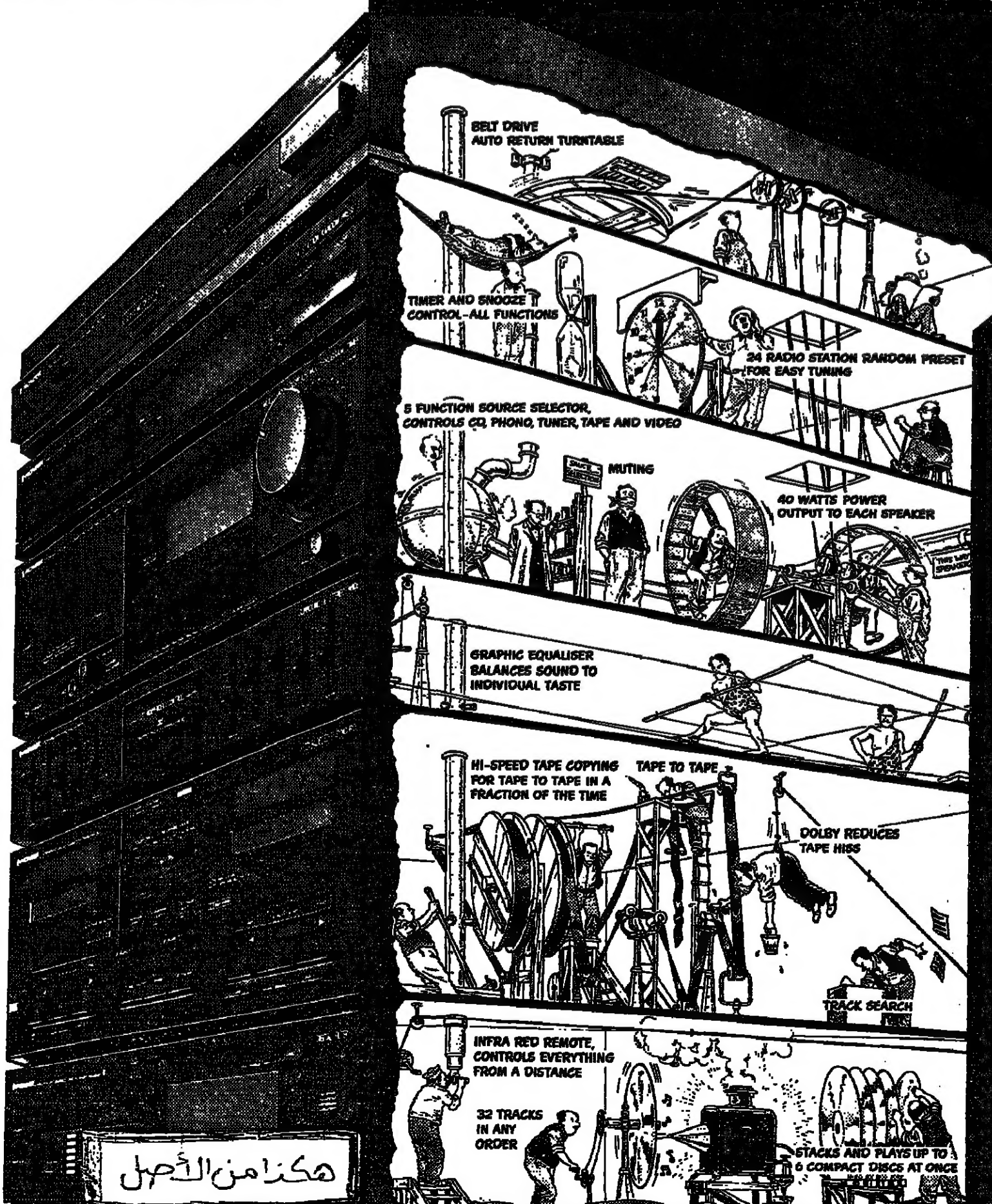
Audio buffs will be eager to know about the quartz synthesised digital tuner with 24 random presets, frequency display and timer.

And there will be others who will twitch nervously.

There are bound to be a few who get excited when they hear that the tape deck comes with CD synchro auto reverse record and dual auto reverse playback. Or positively overjoyed about the infra-red remote and 40 watts per channel.

And there will be others who will simply prefer to know that the Pioneer CD Midi System range plays great music and costs from \$499.99 at Rumblelows.

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focal point to all the families in the same position. "It's a relief to know we are not alone. But, quite honestly, I would rather that it came to me than have Colin go back to P.O.'s terms. I don't think we have thought about safety as much as we should. It is surprising that it happened to the Herald."

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● A glossy "lifestyle" magazine, *Catfish*, edited by Mike Parkinson, the journal and television personality, was launched yesterday by Mike Rover.

UNDEED

Jeweller who fled to Spain with £1m pleads guilty to theft

By Craig Seton

A Midlands jeweller who fled to Spain five years ago after stripping his shops of gold, silver, gems and cash worth more than £1 million, pleaded guilty to theft charges at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

The court was told that Robert Chatwin, aged 46, who returned voluntarily to Britain last September, had claimed that he received none of the jewellery or cash he stole in January 1983 after his business ran into serious financial difficulty.

He had alleged to the West Midlands police that a solicitor had first suggested that he should take his company's money and flee to a country which did not have an extradition treaty with Britain.

He had also claimed in his statements that after changing his mind about taking all of the stolen gems and cash to Spain so that it could be returned to his company, an accomplice involved in the crime, who was named as Malcolm Ross, a property dealer, had disappeared with the stolen goods.

The court was told that although most of the jewellery was quickly recovered by police in unusual circumstances, £180,000 in cash was never recovered.

Chatwin, formerly of Home Farm House, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, pleaded guilty to theft of jewellery worth more than £1 million, £180,000 in cash and 10 other charges, nine of deception involving more than £200,000 from falsely raising mortgage.

Mr Anthony Palmer, QC, for the prosecution, said Chatwin's "dramatic flight" to Spain came immediately after the thefts from his chain of six jewellery shops in the Midlands.

Mr Palmer said that Chatwin's business was short of working capital and he had decided to buy substantial stock in the hope of good trade during Christmas 1982. However, the trade did not go as well as he hoped and he decided to leave, buying a speedboat with an enlarged fuel tank and making arrangements for his furniture to be taken to Spain.

Mr Palmer said that in October 1982, Chatwin had ordered extraordinary amounts of stock for his shops at Sutton Coldfield, Rugby, Stratford-upon-Avon, Solihull, Droitwich and Malvern.

Shortly before Christmas 1982, he had held a party at his house for staff and had told them that an American consortium had agreed to inject money into his company. Between January 2 and January 9, 1983, he shut the shops for stock-taking while



Robert Chatwin, returned voluntarily to Britain.

Sympathy for businessman who failed attempt at crime

Robert Chatwin, the apparently wealthy owner of six Midlands jewellery shops, proved to be a failure in business and an even bigger failure at crime.

Even the police who waited five years for his voluntary return from Spain came to have some sympathy for his downfall.

The middle-class son of a jeweller, Chatwin lived in a big manor house at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, with his wife and two daughters, owning expensive cars and an ocean-going yacht.

However, by Christmas 1982, four years after he opened his chain of shops, Chatwin's apparent affluence hid a crumbling business and growing debts, accelerated by the collapse of the gold market.

Facing ruin, he decided to steal from his own business and flee to Spain, where he knew other British criminals flourished out of the reach of British justice.

While his wife, Carolyn, and daughters, Julia and Jenny, were on a new year holiday in the United States, Chatwin took gold, silver, gems and other jewellery with a retail value of £1 million and £180,000 in takings from his shops and disappeared.

He left behind empty shops, unpaid staff and creditors. Under a pillow at their home, his family found a note of farewell and £100.

On January 6, 1983, West Midlands police began an investigation into his disappearance. However, the previous day, Chatwin had fled to Spain on a ferry from Plymouth. However, the stolen gems never arrived. Less than 10 days after he disappeared, 15 polythene bags filled with jewellery were dumped at the office of a London solicitor acting for Chatwin and reports that he had decided to hand them back because threats had been made on his life.

More gems were recovered in the Midlands. Detectives spent six months cataloguing 21,986 items of jewellery worth £1 million at wholesale value. However, they say they will never know whether all the gems have been traced because there are no records.

The estimated £180,000 in Christmas takings from Chatwin's shops has never been recovered. The police assume that the jeweller's accomplices kept the money.

Within days of arriving in Spain, Chatwin was arrested

Moscow circus comes to town



Byashim Annayev, of Moscow State Circus, calming one of its horses yesterday after it arrived at Gatwick airport. The circus, featuring 70 artists from throughout the Soviet Union, plays at Battersea Park, south-west London, from Sunday until May 15. A gala performance in front of the Princess of Wales is scheduled for Thursday (Photograph: Peter Trivnor).

EEC may put ban on public smoking

Individuals who are married not only contract less cancer than single people but, if they fall victim to the disease, appear to live longer than their unmarried counterparts.

Survival rates of married cancer sufferers when compared with single victims of the same age are similar to unmarried who are 10 years younger.

Led by Mr James Goodwin, of the Medical College of Wisconsin, in the United States, the researchers discovered that married people were more likely to seek early diagnosis and treatment.

The researchers believe the findings highlight how partner and family support can lower stress and contribute to improved health.

Dr John Boun, a stress expert at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, said the American findings seemed to confirm other investigations on stress and ill health.

Mrs Edwina Currie, the junior health minister, backed the 10-point European code for preventing cancer and announced a £100,000 boost for British projects during next week's public education campaign.

Britain has the highest incidence of both lung and breast cancer in Europe. One in three Britons will develop some form of cancer, and one in five will die from it.

Mrs Currie said the problem is growing. In 1983 there were 4,300 new cases per million population per year, but by last year this figure had risen to 4,700 and is expected to rise to 5,300 per million by 1994, mainly as a result of the growing number of elderly people and new advances in detecting the disease.

She said lung cancer was dropping among men but the number of women, particularly in their twenties, suffering from lung cancer had increased by about a quarter.

She made a plea for "smoke-free relationships" and told young women they would turn into "grumpy old ladies" by the age of 50 if they continued smoking.

The code which has been adopted by all 12 European Community nations, also advises women to have regular cervical smear tests, to examine their breasts monthly and for those over 50 to attend mammography screening.

Health ministers will also be pressed to introduce smoking zones in the work place.

Speaking at the launch of the European Against Cancer Week, which starts on May 1, M. Richonier said that under the Commissioner's proposals cigarette prices in England, Ireland and West Germany would not fall in the harmonization of taxes for the single market in 1992, as small

Pressure grows over stabbing

Pressure mounted yesterday for immediate publication of the controversial report into the playground stabbing of a pupil aged 13 at a Manchester secondary school.

Teaching and non-teaching staff at Burnage High School said any criticisms contained in the report were best brought into the open so they could be fairly discussed and acted upon where necessary.

Staff committee members asked Manchester City Council education committee and school governors to ensure that racial harmony at the school should be conducted in a sensitive, non-threatening and non-divisive way.

The Manchester Council for Community Relations criticized the city council for refusing to publish the report by Mr Ian MacDonald, QC, after a nine-month inquiry into anti-racist policies at the school.

The council had undertaken to make public the report's contents when it agreed to commission the inquiry but had failed to live up to that promise, the group said.

The city council said copies of the report had not been printed after advice that it could result in legal action against the authority. A legally-approved substitute is expected to be presented next month.

Ramsden insured for £3m

The life of Mr Terry Ramsden, the businessman and racehorse owner, was insured for £3 million by a stockbroking firm for which he worked, a court was told yesterday.

The value put on his services was revealed by the defence at Southwark Crown Court, south London, where Mr Ramsden denies a charge of fraudulently evading payment of value added tax between January 7, 1984, and January 22, 1985.

Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the defence, said that Mr Ramsden earned millions in commission from introducing clients to T C Coombs and advising on investments. The firm had insured his life for £3 million.

The court was told that Mr Ramsden, of Nevendon Road, Wickford, Essex, left school at the age of 16 to work as an insurance clerk, but moved to Heddewicks, the stockbrokers, where his qualities were recognized and he was promoted to the "dealing area" at the age of 21.

One of the brokers, Mr Patrick Mahon, aged 48, realized Mr Ramsden's financial genius, it was said, and used him as a freelance agent when he set up T C Coombs.

However, Mr Ramsden, now aged 36, got into difficulties when an administrative error meant that his deals left T C Coombs with a cash shortfall. He was paid no commission and gave T C Coombs power to control his personal finances until the shortfall was made good.

Solicitors for T C Coombs investigated the deals in 1982 and discovered that many of the clients that Mr Ramsden brought to the company were nominee companies under his control.

Mr Arlidge said that the solicitors were critical of both T C Coombs and Mr Ramsden, who is alleged to have failed to pay VAT mainly on retainers and commissions from the firm. The court was told that between 1979 and 1985 his turnover in share dealing came to £3,058,965,417.

Mr Arlidge said that Mr Ramsden paid the outstanding bill of £536,000 for VAT.

The trial continues today.

Breast cancer screen plan

Many women will be spared the ordeal of surgery to remove their breasts if a planned national screening programme succeeds, a leading specialist told a British Medical Association conference in Jersey yesterday.

The programme to be introduced in the NHS within two years, at an initial cost of £30 million, could eventually save up to 4,000 lives a year, Mr Merion Thomas, a consultant surgeon at the Westminster and Royal Marsden hospitals said. Many more would not need a mastectomy.

Women aged from 50-65, the age group most at risk from the disease which causes about 14,000 deaths annually will be the beneficiaries. Every year about 24,000 new cases are reported but mortality could be reduced by about 30 per cent through efficient use of the programme.

Mr Thomas said that doctors were worried that as many as four women in 10 may refuse the offer of an X-ray when the system is launched. Research was necessary to discover all the reasons for this.

He urged all eligible women to take part and said in most cases their fears were probably unfounded.

In a study of 32 patients found by screening to have a tumour, none of them required the removal operation.

"It is now much more likely that not only can we save a woman's life, we can save her breasts as well," he said.

"The acceptability of this programme may be improved if women understand that detection of a tumour at an early stage means that treatment will almost certainly not involve a mastectomy."

Museum charges opposed

Two of Britain's leading scientific institutions yesterday criticized the decision of the Science Museum in south-west London to introduce admissions charges in October.

The Institute of Physics and the British Association for the Advancement of Science expressed concern that the charges, likely to be about £2 for adults and £1 for children, will hinder efforts to make more young people interested in science and technology.

Reaction among visitors to the museum yesterday was strongly against the charges.

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Mrs Christine Ahmed, a teacher at the Sarah Bonnell Girls' School, east London, surrounded by her party of 90 girls, said: "It is terrible and totally unacceptable. It will cut down on the number of children who will come here."

Dr Louis Cohen, executive secretary of the Institute of Physics, said that he was "dismayed" by the decision.

He said: "We need young people to have an interest in science, and I would not want to see anything getting in the way of that."

Dr Malcolm Frazer, chairman of the British Association, said he appreciated that people should be asked to make a contribution to services the museum provided. "Any changes which will deter people from experiencing what the museum has to offer must be regretted."

Dr Neil Cossons, director of the museum, said the trustees had made the decision to charge admission reluctantly.

"The museum is wearing out at a faster rate than it is being renewed," he said. There would still be free admission between 4.30pm and 6pm every day.

Telecom third in Euro directories contest

British Telecom has come joint third in a survey to nominate the best telephone directory in the EEC.

Each country was invited to submit a sample of a white and of a yellow directory for a panel of judges representing member states to study. Telecom would probably have done better, it is understood, if it had not forgotten the Yellow Pages.

As it was, *The Phone Book A-D* (London) scored highly. Mrs Vivian Peters, director of Britain's Telecommunications Users Association and one of the judges, said: "From an artistic point of view, Britain's directory came out very well."

"But as a directory serving the capital city, it did not give sufficient information on the city itself, particularly as far as visitors were concerned."

Competition was extremely stiff, Mrs Peters said. Some of the directories had maps and tourist guides.

The winner was the *Hamburg Telephone Directory* from West Germany. Belgium was second, with France and Italy third alongside Britain. Luxembourg, pipped Greece for bottom place.

The competition was the idea of a Paris-based consumer organization, the Institute for Economic and Social Research in Telecommunications.

Entries were assessed on the basis of 15 questions designed to evaluate attractiveness, layout, reference keys and provision of emergency numbers.

Resorts are urged to improve beaches

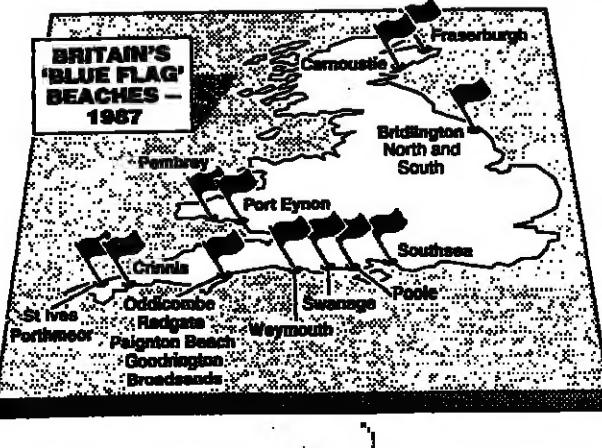
Ireland met the standards laid down in an EEC directive on water quality. Only 17 beaches, two of them in Scotland, met the "blue flag" criteria stipulated by the European Foundation for Environmental Education.

Nearly half of those inspected had litter or suffered from dog fouling. Thirty per cent lacked litter bins, 15 per cent showed evidence of industrial pollution and 10 per cent were oil polluted.

The flag scheme is organized by the Tidy Britain Group, with the support of the Water Authorities Association. To qualify, a beach must be regularly used by large numbers of people and be managed by its owners.

A beach should be free of industrial or sewage discharges, litter and oil pollution; provide first aid and sanitary facilities; be equipped with lifeguards, life-saving equipment and public telephones; and be cleaned regularly and supplied with litter bins.

A further requirement this year is that dogs should be banned from the beach during the holiday season. Professor



Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Winner to celebrate ruby day

Mr Jim Jenkyn, a retired postmaster, plans to make his ruby wedding celebrations in three weeks an extra special occasion thanks to his £2,000 share in the daily Portfolio competition.

Mr Jenkyn, aged 67, of Walkers Green, Marden, Hereford and Worcester, said he had been playing the competition since it started without success.

"It came as a complete surprise, but it will come in useful, as we Cornishmen say. My wife, Betty, and I are celebrating our ruby wedding with our three daughters and this will help us to do it in style."

Also sharing the prize is Mr Barry Oughton, of Lakeside, Tring, Hertfordshire.

TOMORROW'S

The Times Property Guide

Tomorrow's full-colour, 16-page Times Property Guide describes the appeal of the Alps, the delights of Devon, and the mansion that became smart flats

MP's plea for drugs informant

Infiltration of a big drugs network by police was aborted last night and an informant was rushed to a secret address after an MP disclosed details of the undercover operations.

Instead of leading detectives to the masterminds behind a cocaine-smuggling gang planning to import huge consignments of the drug to Britain, the informant, aged 40, was in hiding, under police guard, and in fear of his life.

Mr Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield, yesterday announced details of covert operations already carried out.

Mr Sheerman said he was first approached two months ago by the informant who gave a false name of Pepe Jimenez. The man said he believed the police had reneged on promises to provide him with money, a new name and false identity to start a new life in a foreign country.

The MP said Jimenez told him: "Police say I've provided them with more information in 10 months than they had previously amassed in 20 years. Yet now they are not keeping their word so I'm left to the mercy of murderers hunting me worldwide."

Questions will next week be tabled to Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, demanding to know why police have allegedly not honoured their pledge.

Mr Sheerman said he had been trying "behind the scenes" for two months to obtain justice for the man.

"Finally I felt there was no alternative but to bring this scandalous situation to public attention," he said.

Detective Chief Supt Ronald Sagar, head of Number Three Regional Crime Squad, based in Wakefield, said the informant had been of "inestimable help" but said the police were alarmed about the revelations on undercover work.

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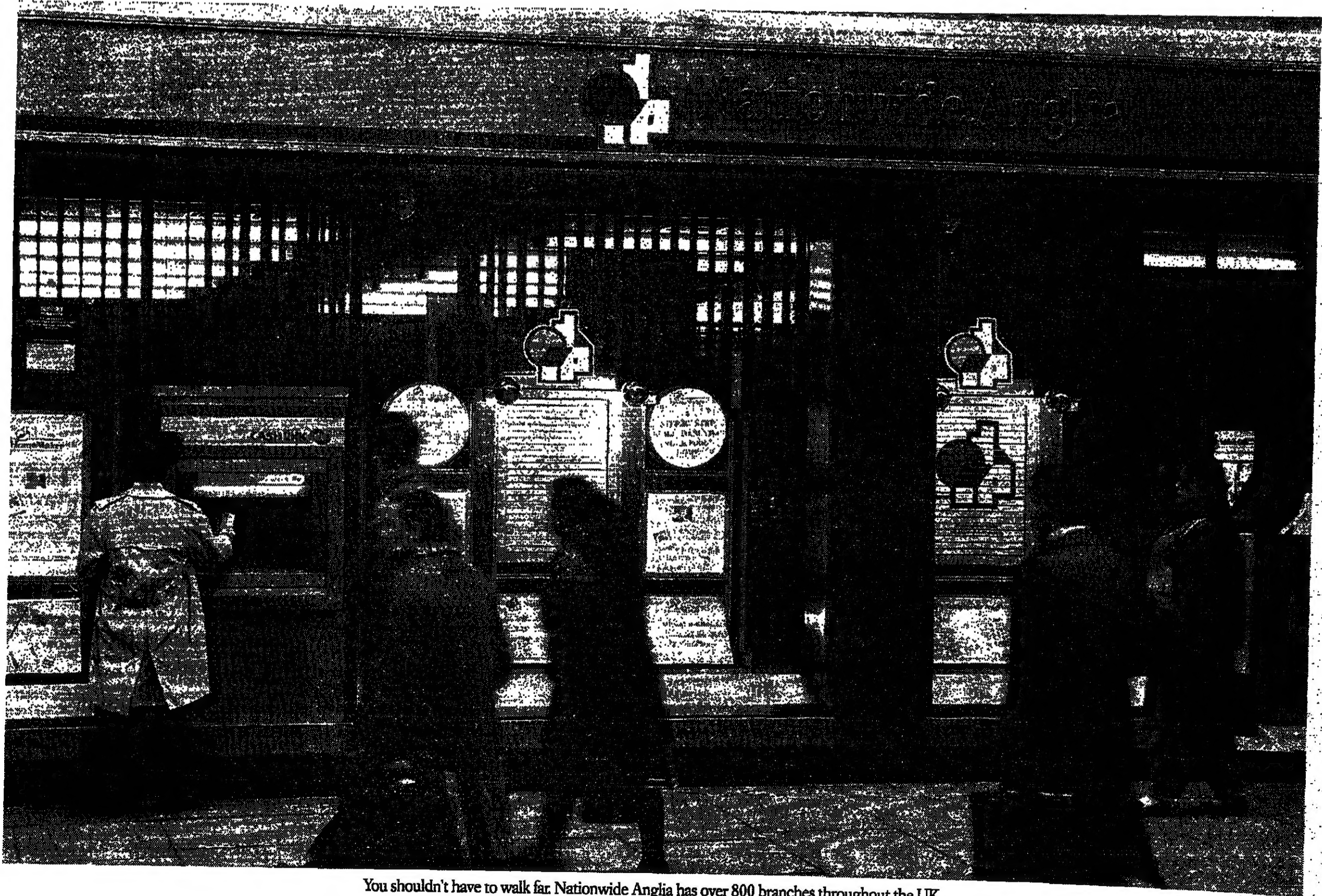
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Antique furniture a better buy than South-east houses

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Antique furniture is a better investment than houses in the South-east and more than twice as good as investment in shares, according to a report to be published next month.

The report, *Antique Furniture Prices 1968-1988*, compiled by the Antique Collectors' Club, the fine art publishers, says that an "average" piece of furniture which cost £100 in 1968 is now worth £2,200, an annual increase of 17.5 per cent.

Top performer in the survey was a Regency Bergère armchair, which might have been bought for £30 in 1968 and is now worth £2,150. A seventeenth century walnut kneehole desk increased from £875 to £5,225, just above the rise in the retail price index.

On average, cheaper items did 50 per cent better than expensive pieces, although at varying rates of increase, the report, which is likely to push prices even higher, says.

Mr James Storm, editor of *Antique Collecting* magazine, said the increase had already taken many pieces out of the reach of the average buyer. "It is not just because people pay more for a piece when it turns up, but because increasingly one has to go to expensive shops as the only source of supply", he said.

Mr Alistair Layzell, of the Antique Collectors Club, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, said colleagues including dealers and

auctioneers determined the average price rises. However, they were not prepared for such a dramatic increase.

Mr John Andrews, author of the report, said: "We were just amazed at the scale of the increase. You are talking of 20 times compared to six times for the retail price index."

The report concentrates on standard, run-of-the-mill antiques as opposed to record breakers. It is the first of its kind, and will be a revelation to collectors.

Mr Layzell said: "We are the only people just to do it with furniture, and the only people who have taken the same pieces of furniture for 20 years."

The most profitable general category was oak, while the least profitable was walnut. Victorian furniture, which is supposedly popular at present was the second worst performer. However, this may be because it is in plentiful supply.

The report says utility also helped determine prices. The fact that kneehole desks were impractical, even as dressing tables, clearly had some bearing on their value. However, wear and tear could help to make antique furniture more attractive.

Finally, the cult of the individual has hit furniture. Prices can go through the roof for pieces by cabinet makers such as the recently discov-

ered George Bullock.

Mr Storm said the period from 1968 had seen big changes in purchasing patterns. In the past, a collector with a good eye could pick up bargains. Nowadays, they were hard to find.

He said: "The price is likely to be more than the same object in a good shop because the smaller dealer sees good prices so infrequently he thinks them worth more than they are."

Antique furniture was a much safer investment than most "so long as you protect yourself by either knowing what you are buying, or else demanding an invoice which states clearly the date and condition of what you are buying. This gives you reasonable protection in law. No such protection exists on the Stock Exchange."

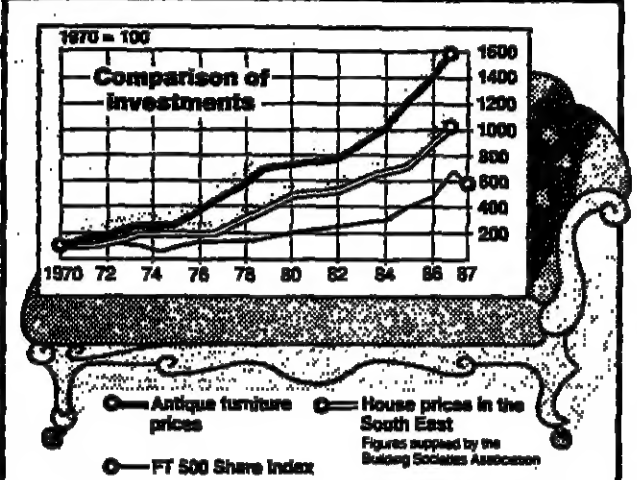
Mr Storm said antique prices pushed forward in cycles of three to five years and then steadied before gaining momentum again.

He said he had observed an apparent connection between the rise in prices and national and world events. "It really looks as though people buy furniture, and hence push the price, when they feel optimistic, and refrain when times are hard."

In the slump of the early 1980s, prices had levelled out for three years. The report shows that antique furniture prices increased by 1.5 times more than house prices for the South-east, supplied by the Building Societies Association, and more than twice as much as the FT 500 share index after adding 4 per cent per annum for dividends.

Mr Storm said: "The people who bought expensive antique furniture in 1968 may not be the same people or even the same type of people as those buying furniture now, but others have come along who have the money and the willingness to spend it."

Antique Furniture Prices 1968-1988 (Antique Collectors' Club, 5 Church Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1DS; £3.50, available May).



Warhol lure strong as ever

The 10-day Andy Warhol sale at Sotheby's, New York, saw the introduction of the pop artist's watches and jewellery on Wednesday.

Three plastic wrist watches, including one bearing the image of Fred Flintstone, sold for \$2,640 (£1,404), against a top estimate of \$80. Both sections totalled \$1.7 million (£900,000) with everything sold.

A pair of ruby and diamond "Honeycomb Heart" earrings, designed and signed by Salvador Dali fetched a top price of \$55,000 (£29,255), or five times their estimate.

A more typical pendant by Dali, showing the profile faces of Tristan and Isolde ingeniously separated by a chalice, fetched \$47,300 (£25,160) against an estimate of \$7,500 to \$10,000. A pair of mixed-stone "Carrier" clip bangles dated about 1940 sold for \$41,800 (£22,234), four times over estimate.

Top price in the watches

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

section was \$14,300 (£7,606) for a Patek Philippe & Co gold rectangular example dated about 1950, which merely tripled its estimate.

Architectural drawings sold for the prices of respectable watercolours at Sotheby's in London yesterday.

The Victoria and Albert Museum paid £11,000 for a design by Robert Adam for illuminations to celebrate the birthday of King George III.

A rare Charles II ebony veneered "grande sonnerie" bracket clock designed by Joseph Knibb doubled its estimate at Sotheby's clocks and watches sale in London, going for £110,000.

Lawrence Fine Art, the Somerset house, achieved a

record for Garnet Wolsley when his painting of a windswept girl in a field fetched £19,250, four times estimate.

Finally, Sotheby's sold an elaborate Austrian nineteenth century meerschaum pipe which illustrates Byron's entire epic poem *Mazepa* for double its estimate, at £8,800 in London.

Lawyers' levy

Solicitors at the Law Society council meeting yesterday approved a £17.5 million levy on the profession to meet a big and unexpected rise in compensation claims as a result of colleagues' dishonesty.

Skeletons find

The discovery of 46 skeletons believed to be of executed criminals at a Saxon grave site in west Norfolk was described by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit yesterday as a find of national importance.

Fresh doubt cast on poems

By Alan Hamilton

Professor Peter Levi's claim to have unearthed new poems by Shakespeare is challenged today by an academic who argues that they are more likely to be the work of a hitherto obscure Leicester-shire author, Sir William Skiplwith.

Writing in *The Times Literary Supplement* Mr James Knowles, a research fellow at Leicester University, argues that the signature on the "disputed manuscript" is clearly "W Sk", and he says it closely

resembles other existing signatures known to be by Skiplwith, who was a near neighbour of the Huntingdon family which gave the engagement party at which the verses were performed.

Professor Levi contends that the signature was added by the playwright John Marston to prove Shakespeare's authorship but Mr Knowles argues that even if the signature is by Marston, that offers no evidence for Shakespearean authorship.

"Overall, the circumstantial evidence for Skiplwith's authorship of the verses is much stronger than Shakespeare's", Mr Knowles says.

Ascribing the verses to Skiplwith, Mr Knowles admits, is not new; the suggestion was made as long ago as 1845 by the author, Joseph Hunter, and the Skiplwith theory is supported by Mr Isaac Shapiro, of the Shakespeare Institute at Birmingham University.

District profile: Trafford

Grammar schools remain a live issue

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Just as the globe and the nation can be divided in politics and prosperity along north/south lines, so can Trafford, the metropolitan borough carved at the last reorganization out of the Greater Manchester conurbation and the north Cheshire commuter belt.

The north is inner city. From the Streitford end at Manchester United's ground at Old Trafford the vista is council estates, the Ship Canal, and not far away the huge half-dormitory Trafford Park, where an enterprise zone and an urban development has been established to promote industrial regeneration.

The south is small town suburbiousness. Altrincham, Hale and Bowdon hanker still after the Cheshire connection. The south, unsurprisingly, is

Conservative; the party has 27 members of the council. The north is solid Labour, with 28 members. In between are Trafford's Social and Liberal Democrats, whose seven councillors have supported Labour during the past couple of years since it became the leading party. Most controversially, the Democrats have backed Labour's plans for secondary education in the borough, which will replace the grammar and secondary modern schools with comprehensives.

"It's a burning issue", according to the Conservative leader, Colin Warbrick, citing a 10,000 signature petition against reorganization.

Labour lost seats on the education issue last year, but this time it is expressing its pride in increased spending on



LOCAL ELECTIONS

schools and social services. Mr Barry Brotherton, the council leader, hopes that Trafford will be immune this year from a factor in last year's elections - the Manchester effect, in which public suspicion of the Labour group on Manchester City Council spillover to take votes from the more moderate Labour neighbours.

Labour has entered no formal pact with the Liberals,

Young musicians ready for grand final



The four class winners of the Young Musician of the Year competition (from left), Jennifer Sturgeon, aged 13, who won the wind section, David Pyatt, aged 14, brass David Horne, aged 17, piano, and Paul Watkins, aged 18, strings, at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, yesterday. They are preparing for the grand final at the city's Free Trade Hall on Sunday, when it will be broadcast on BBC2 (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Whitehall men join defence firms

Ministry refusal to supply full details

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence has repeatedly refused to supply full details of senior officers and Civil Servants who left to join defence contractors and other private companies, the Commons select committee on defence said yesterday.

The committee said in a report that it found the limited information which the ministry had agreed to supply as "disturbing".

The MPs demanded a new system of openness about such appointments. This was the only way to allay inevitable public suspicion which those who were involved in awarding big government defence contracts subsequently went to work for defence contractors, they said.

According to the figures released by the ministry, senior defence staff account for a disproportionate number of applications to take up outside appointments which are referred to the Prime Minister's

A number of former top-ranking defence staff are heading big defence companies. Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, former Controller of the Navy, responsible for overall procurement from 1981 to 1984, has been deputy chairman of Marconi since last year. Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, chief executive of British Aerospace, retired as vice-chief of naval staff in 1978. Sir Frank Cooper, chairman of United Scientific Holdings since 1985, was permanent secretary at the

Ministry of Defence until 1982. General Sir Harry Tazewell, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe until 1978, became chairman of Marconi Space and Defence Systems in 1979. Mr Kenneth Slater, former director of the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment, became director of engineering for Marconi Underwater Systems in 1984. Sir Brian Tovey, former director of GCHQ, Cheltenham, became director of Plessey Defence Systems in 1983.

advisory committee on business appointments.

The majority of these applications are for jobs with defence companies.

The Cabinet Office and the advisory committee have the power to block appointments for up to two years after an employee has left the Civil Service.

However, no restrictions were imposed in 43 per cent of cases where applicants had

contractual dealings with the company they wished to join. There appeared to be little consistency in the treatment of individuals in apparently similar circumstances.

One applicant with "overall responsibility" for awarding a contract had been given unconditional permission to take up a consultancy. Other applicants with "indirect responsibility" for awarding contracts had been blocked for between three months and two years.

The figures suggested that the ministry had markedly tightened procedures once it realized it was under outside scrutiny. The MPs conclude: "The evidence put before us relating to the MoD does not demonstrate that the movement of crown servants to industry is in the public interest, or that the rules ensure its propriety."

The committee reserved its strongest criticism for the ministry's refusal to supply full details of which officers and Civil Servants had gone to which companies and under what conditions.

The MPs rejected the ministry's argument that the information, which it had sought repeatedly for three years, was confidential. "As far as personal confidentiality is concerned, we do not accept that where public interest and private interest are opposed the public should give way to the private," they said.

Defence Committee: Business Appointments (Stationery Office, £8.80).

Survey supports loan scheme

Students better off despite grant fall

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Students are 5 per cent better off on average than they were five years ago, in spite of a 21 per cent fall in the value of their grant, according to a survey of undergraduate income and expenditure commissioned by the Government, whose proposals will be published in the summer.

The Government is expected to draw on the survey's findings to support its case for introducing a system of loans to supplement student grants.

The improvement in students' living standards between 1982-83 and 1986-87 is because of a massive 86 per cent increase in parental contributions and greater reliance on housing benefit, the survey says.

In 1986-87, the average student lived on £2,800, made up of a grant of £1,120, a parental contribution of £1,277 and a mixture of benefits, gifts and earnings.

The survey is based on detailed interviews with nearly 1,900 undergraduates in 60 universities, colleges and polytechnics.

Thirty seven per cent of students whose parents were required after means testing to contribute to their maintenance did not receive the contribution in full, compared with 46 per cent in 1982-83. The poorest 17 per cent came from two-parent professional homes.

The survey found that students spend an average of £500 a year on entertainment, including £320 on alcohol. By contrast, spending on books, equipment and stationery averaged £172, with the better off spending 38 per cent more than the poorest. "This relationship between income and course expenses may be a cause for concern", the report says. "Performance might well be affected by this difference."

Methodios letter tells of church rift

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

Archbishop Methodios, the deposed leader of the Greek Orthodox community in Britain, has admitted in his farewell message that he had found "great difficulty" in some of his dealings with the Church of England.

He also acknowledges that he was open to criticism for his lack of interest in such bodies as the British Council of Churches.

The archbishop was dismissed earlier this month on the orders of the Ecumenical

Patriarch, Demetrios I, and the Ecumenical synod of Constantinople, which accused him of "coveting other thrones" and of "unseemly and improper behaviour".

He was summarily replaced as Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain by his senior deputy, Bishop (now Archbishop) Gregorios.

Archbishop Methodios has issued a long pastoral letter which he hopes will be read in all the churches of the Greek Orthodox community. It is

largely a record of his career in Britain and does not attempt to answer the specific charges against him.

The letter expresses his loyalty to the Ecumenical Patriarch and the warmth of his feelings for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

In spite of his great personal reluctance to do so, he adds, he has often grieved Dr Runcie "with my uncompromising attitude to the liberal tendencies which are

being promoted within the Church of England".

He was until earlier this year the Orthodox co-chairman of the official Anglican Orthodox theological commission, and he says: "I confess I carried out my work in this theological dialogue with great difficulty. I am no longer confronted with the old Anglican Communion which I knew when I wrote in Manchester my book, *Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism and Anglicanism*."

Attack on vehicle tax dodgers

A campaign to catch motorists failing to tax their vehicles will be launched on Tuesday. Last year a similar crackdown conducted by the police and officials from the Driver and Vehicle Licence Centre, Swansea, led 211,000 drivers to retax their cars, providing £15.75 million in revenue.

Some 356,000 motorists were prosecuted last year for failing to display a valid tax disc, paying £23.6 million in fines and back tax. An estimated £105 million is lost annually through evasion.

Bull Ring goes

Birmingham City Council planners have granted outline planning permission for a £250 million shopping mall to replace the city's Bull Ring Shopping Centre, which is to be demolished.

Driving plea

Eric Skelton, who is 6ft 10in tall and weighs 32 stone, avoided a driving ban yesterday for driving without insurance for a third time after magistrates at Newark, Nottingham, were told his size meant he would be unable to travel by bus or taxi.

Doctor resigns

Dr Gillian Cardy, the family planning specialist who was suspended earlier this year for talking to the media about health service cuts but then reinstated in the wake of protests from colleagues, has resigned from her job with Bath health authority.

Police injury

Supt Stuart Bowron was treated for whiplash injuries yesterday after the police car in which he was travelling braked to avoid anti-nuclear protesters and was hit by a cruise missile vehicle at Greenham Common, Berkshire.

Parish call

Representatives of more than 7,500 parish councils, the smallest unit of local government, are scheduled to petition the Prime Minister today for extra powers.

Welsh protest

Two members of the Welsh Language Society were conditionally discharged at Llandudno Magistrates' Court yesterday for breaking a window at the offices of Mr Wyn Roberts, Minister of State at the Welsh Office, as part of their campaign.

Jail riot film

A video film of a prison officer being led by a chain around his neck and waist on the roof of Peterhead prison, Grampian, was shown to a High Court jury yesterday in the trial of four prisoners charged after riots last October.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Artist sold 2,500 fake masterpieces

Bonn (AP) — A West German painter produced about 2,500 fake art masterpieces that were sold for millions of marks over 13 years in what is one of Europe's biggest art scandals. Herr Edgar Mergalla's fakes were sold for between 30 and 40 million marks (£9.5 to £13 million), mostly to art collectors and dealers across West Germany, according to prosecutors.

Bank workers strike

Lagos (AFP) — Bank and insurance workers in Lagos are striking in protest against an increase in the price of petroleum products which came into effect on April 10. Labour sources said that the strike could be joined today by nurses, midwives and other health workers as well as petrol, gas and water supply workers unions.

Some large banks in the Nigerian capital were closed on Wednesday, while at others only senior members of staff were present for administrative work. A bank union official said that workers are also protesting against the Government's dissolution of the executive of the Nigeria Labour Congress on February 29. The duration of the strike, the official said, will depend on how soon the Government takes action to settle union grievances. A government source said the authorities would react to the strike action at the appropriate time.

Singapore releases 8

Singapore (Reuters) — Eight former prisoners who were arrested last week have withdrawn claims that they were tortured while in detention last year. In a statement the Singapore Government said it was dropping plans to conduct a commission of inquiry into the allegations.

It said the eight former detainees and their lawyer, who were arrested on April 19, affirmed in sworn statutory declarations that their allegations of torture were "fabricated" to discredit the Government. The eight were arrested one day after they issued a signed statement claiming they were tortured while in detention last year. They also denied allegations they were involved in a Marxist conspiracy to overthrow the Government.

North Cyprus crisis

Nicosia (AP) — The head of the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus resigned yesterday after a disagreement with a coalition party demanding more seats in the Cabinet. Mr Dervis Eroglu submitted his government's resignation to President Rauf Denktas, who was expected to ask Mr Eroglu to form a new government. The government, formed in September 1986, was a coalition of Mr Eroglu's centre-right National Unity Party and the right-wing New Birth Party of mainland settlers.

The chairman of the New Birth Party, which had only one seat in the parliament, demanded that three more ministerial posts be given to members of his party in order to continue the party's partnership in the coalition.

Grapefruit cleared

Rome (Reuters) — A senior Italian scientist said yesterday that Israeli grapefruit at the centre of a poison scare contained no toxic substances and that a government ban on grapefruit sales could be lifted. Professor Vincenzo Longo, a senior pharmacologist at the government Health Institute, said tests on six grapefruit found injected with a bright blue substance proved negative. Signor Longo said the blue substance was a harmless colourant. While a group of laboratory mice died after being fed the grapefruit in earlier tests, Signor Longo said those mice very probably died from being fed too much grapefruit.

Jackson keeps party guessing

Philadelphia — The most critical question in American politics at this moment is whether Mr Michael Dukakis can reach an understanding with the Rev Jesse Jackson. No Democratic candidate can win the presidency without strong support from black voters, and no Democrat is likely to get the black vote this year without the full backing of Mr Jackson.

The question is put most simply and crudely in terms of whether Mr Jackson will be Mr Dukakis's running mate. But I would be astounded if that were to happen.

Mr Dukakis must know that that would destroy his chances of getting to the White House. For all Mr Jackson's successes with Democratic primary voters, the American electorate is not prepared to

Quest for respect and influence

have him one step from the presidency.

Nor is he in quite such a strong position to exercise pressure after his heavy defeat in the Pennsylvania primary this week. My impression was that something of the steam had gone out of the Jackson campaign after his defeat in New York.

The strength of his campaign has lain in his ability to mobilize the black vote, in his appeal to the white protest vote as the most left-wing of the candidates, in being the most magnetic speaker in a field not distinguished for its rhetoric, and in the eagerness of white liberals to vote for a serious black candidate.

As his success far exceeded expectations, so the campaign was buoyed up by the intoxicating hope that the incredible was about to happen. Now it is clear that it cannot happen, there is inevitably some sense of deflation. But that does not rob his performance of its significance.

I would doubt if Mr Jackson himself even wants to be the vice-presidential candidate. He would be subjected to inhibiting restraints, never speaking out of turn, and then risk incurring the blame himself if the Democrats were defeated. I have not detected among his more experienced supporters any serious drive to make him the running mate.

Nor do I believe that he is seeking the promise of a cabinet post. That also would be too confining. So what is in prospect is not a traditional deal where the allegiance of a



Geoffrey Smith

powerful politician is bought by the offer of a place. To expect that would seem to me to mistake both Mr Jackson's interest and the nature of his campaign. It has reached the stage where it appears to be as much a quest for respect and influence as for votes.

Perhaps it always has been. He told one of his supporters early on that what mattered was to play in the Super Bowl, not necessarily to win it. In other words, what he wants is to be a central member of the Democratic establishment, to be consulted and to influence appointments rather than to be appointed himself.

If this is his wish it is a realistic one. He may succeed in opening political doors for blacks in America through which it would not be possible for him to pass himself. But he is more likely to be influential in the team if he is a team player. It will be in his personal interest to do everything he can to win the presidency for the Democrats.

Mr Gerald Austin, Mr Jackson's national campaign manager, told me that he expected him to be campaigning very enthusiastically for whoever the candidate is. He went on to say that Mr Jackson did not believe he should have a veto over who is the vice-presidential candidate and that there will not be difficulty in persuading Mr Jackson to support someone who would strengthen the ticket.

So I do not think it should be too hard for Mr Dukakis and Mr Jackson to reach an understanding. But there may still be difficulty in persuading black voters that their man has not been cheated when he is the runner-up but not the running-mate. It may therefore be critical for Mr Jackson to exclude himself from the ticket before Mr Dukakis has to exclude him.

Oil drives Iraq's economy but jams roads

From Paul Valley Baghdad

Even when three missiles a day were falling on Baghdad earlier this year, more people were being killed on the roads here than in the war.

Iraqis are not the world's best drivers. There are eight times more road deaths per vehicle in Iraq than in the United States, one mechanized American resident told me.

Moreover, the roads in Iraq are never empty. The six-lane highways out of the capital are constantly jammed with traffic, much of it heavy lorries and tankers. With its main port at Basra closed by Iranian bombardment and access limited at the secondary Gulf port of Um Qasr, the vast bulk of imports and exports are carried by road.

About 250,000 barrels of oil are exported by lorry through Jordan and Turkey daily. For an oil-producing country this was, at one point, a severe restriction, especially after Syria, in support of Iran, closed one of Iraq's two main pipelines to the sea. Oil sales dropped from a prewar level of 3.5 million barrels per day to only 0.65 million at the worst point in 1982. The economic

problems this caused were compounded as Iraq continued to spend during the first three years of the war as it had done before. By 1983 expensive development projects had eaten away its entire \$35 billion (almost £20 billion) reserves and created substantial debts.

By 1986, the economy was in crisis. The war, which was costing as much as \$1 billion a month, had eased after the early years of fierce fighting and large offensives, but the national debt had risen to \$55 billion. That year, the price of oil fell below \$10 a barrel.

Iraq stopped honouring its letters of credit, which meant that many foreigners refused to trade and imports were severely reduced. The country began to default on repayments, and entered a complex series of rescheduling negotiations. Yet this year, with the national debt at \$80 billion (not including weapons purchases) and the war eating up \$7 billion of an estimated income of around \$13 billion, all the economic analysts here agree that things are looking a lot brighter.

There are five main reasons. Firstly, Iraq has two new pipelines. As well as boosting its original line

across Turkey, it has built a second which opened last June. A third now exists across Saudi Arabia and a fourth is being built.

Secondly, the price of oil has rallied, and the US dollar (in which oil prices are fixed) is more stable. Thirdly, Iraq has slashed its import bill by as much as two-thirds. Fourthly, much of the debt has been rescheduled, although the terms are not as generous as Iraq had hoped for. And the country is once more honouring its letters of credit.

But the most interesting element in the recovery is President Saddam Hussein's internal reform package — a programme which one diplomat here described as "pure Thatcherism". For a regime which is nominally socialist and models its political, security and economic systems on the Soviet Union the reforms are dramatic.

The President has cut away an entire level of bureaucracy between ministries and the managers of the state-owned oil, date, and electricity industries. Other industries which are regarded as non-strategic are being privatized. The effects are already evident in transport, distribution and, most noticeably, agri-

culture. Price controls, quota systems and other regulations have been abolished. Farmers have the incentive to produce more, and the shops and bazaars are full.

Improved private distribution has eliminated the shortages of soap powder, butter, milk, chickens, and even tea and rice, which were common. Incentives have been created for increased private enterprise. Merchants, under a recent decree, are allowed to import without a licence, provided they buy with savings abroad. "No questions will be asked" about the provenance of cashes in the foreign banks.

Most remarkably for a state which has no less than three security organizations, another presidential decree has instructed the police and security forces not to interfere with traders and shopkeepers.

In addition to increased efficiency and import substitution, the initiative is saving \$500 million annually which it formerly gave in subsidies on staple foods and transport. "The economy is considerably more buoyant than last year," an economist said. "We may even be coming into another boom period."

There are some clouds in the sky.

Turkey, which is owed \$1.8 billion, has since the beginning of this month suspended all future credits. Though debt rescheduling has been settled with the French (on favourable terms to Paris, for the French supply Mirage jets to Iraq) and with West Germany (whose contractors want to be in Iraq's good books if the boom comes), the situation is less than happy with the Japanese, who are owed well more than \$2 billion. Moreover, 1989 is crunch year for much of the debt. Many loans come to maturity then.

Nevertheless, most of the financial community seems prepared to bear with Iraq. A Western financial expert said: "The country has 100 billion barrels of oil in reserve. Oil experts say it probably has the largest oil reserves in the world, they just haven't found it all yet."

Iraq also has 12 million hectares between the Tigris and the Euphrates of the most fertile agricultural land in the Middle East. It has a comparatively well-educated population. Its true potential can never be realized while the Gulf War continues. But the last year has shown that, so long as oil prices hold, some progress can be made.

Chirac prepares to outlaw Kanak group

From Mark Baker, Nouméa, and Philip Jacobson, Paris

The French Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories, M Bernard Pons, said in Nouméa last night that he intended to outlaw the main independence party in New Caledonia because it was involved in political violence and the kidnapping of 24 gendarmes and a prosecutor.

He said police had told him that the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front was implicated in violence, including the hacking to death of four French gendarmes last Friday.

He will propose to the French Cabinet that the separatist group be dissolved, making membership of it a crime. The move is likely to create fresh political tensions in Paris, where campaigning is continuing in the French presidential election.

Such a decree would require a Council of Ministers meeting and the approval of both the Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, and President Mitterrand, rivals for the presidency.

M Léopold Jorjé, secretary-general of the Union Caledonienne, the main group in the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, said: "The only way to suppress the demands of the Kanaks is to eliminate us all."

France began to airlift 250 marines to reinforce its troops as the Kanak rebellion spread further into the Loyalty Islands. Armed Melanesians built roadblocks to prevent troops reaching a besieged police station on the island of Maré. French officials said that there had been shooting on the island, where an undisclosed number of gen-



A gendarme saluting the coffin of a colleague yesterday who was hacked to death by Kanak rebels on Ouvéa last week.

darmes were barricaded in the police station.

Earlier, separatists on Ouvéa freed the head of France's anti-terrorist squad captured after a French magistrate and six gendarmes stumbled into a trap and were taken prisoner to join 16 gendarmes held hostage in a cave by 15 Kanaks.

Official sources said that Captain Philippe Legoux, head of the National Gendarmerie Intervention Group, persuaded his captors to free him to negotiate the fate of his comrades and the state prosecutor, M Jean Biancou.

M Pons attended the funeral in Nouméa for three gendarmes hacked to death during an attack on a police barracks on Ouvéa six days ago, when the first group of hostages was taken.

French flags draped the coffins and prayers were said during the emotional service for the safety of the people now being held.

The impact of the crisis in New Caledonia on the final stage of the French presidential election campaign was again evident in Paris.

Sources close to M Chirac said that he would announce today whether the Government would seek to outlaw the Kanak separatist organization.

The request for an immediate ban by M Pons came as M Chirac was preparing for his television confrontation with M Mitterrand.

The Government's extreme sensitivity to what it terms "outside interference" in the South Pacific territory was also evident again yesterday. New Zealand's Ambassador in Paris, Mrs Judith Trotter,

was summoned to the Foreign Ministry for the same sharp rebuke her Australian counterpart received on Wednesday. Ministry sources said Mrs Trotter was firmly informed of France's "astonishment" at recent comments by New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr David Lange.

In considering whether to seek the dissolution of the separatist movement, which can only be done by the Council of Ministers, M Chirac faces a tricky strategic

decision. It appears that M Mitterrand alone can summon the council and that his signature will be required for any decree.

It is no secret that M Mitterrand disagrees strongly with the Government's handling of the New Caledonia issue, which was denounced by the head of the Socialist parliamentary group as "risky and unreasonable".

Another indication of the domestic political tension caused by the crisis was the

writ for defamation issued yesterday by M Jean-Louis Bianco, a senior presidential aide at the Elysée Palace, in the wake of comments by the secretary-general of M Chirac's party.

In a radio interview, M Patrick Devedjian had asserted that the renewed campaign of violence by the separatists came after a meeting between M Bianco and separatist leaders a few days ago. "They clearly received encouragement from high

places," he alleged.

The Defence Minister, M André Giraud, emphasized yesterday that "no solution is possible until the hostages have been set free." Although he believed the situation was becoming less tense, M Giraud said that the authority of the state had to be restored.

M Giraud declined to comment on how the anti-terrorist team, specially trained in dealing with hostage takers, had come to be captured by a lightly-armed separatist unit.

US pressure for cost-sharing

Nato nearer to nuclear accord

From Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, Brussels

Nato governments yesterday took another tentative step towards modernizing nuclear weapons systems in Europe with an agreement by defence ministers in Brussels to endorse the development of new missiles. But the choice of weapons and decisions on deployment were left aside.

Mr Frank Carlucci, the US Defence Secretary, speaking after his first Nato Nuclear Planning Group meeting said that he could return to Washington with a message for Congress that America's allies supported "a full exploration" of all the possibilities for replacing the existing short-range Lance missile and selecting an air-to-surface stand-off weapon.

But he emphasized that the fundamental principle of the Alliance was to share "in the cost of deterrence as well as its benefits".

To underline the point that the Alliance could not escape paying the bills for nuclear deterrence in Europe, he then revealed that he is sending Mr William Taft, his deputy secretary, to Europe shortly to consult allied governments about "the responsibility and risks" of a common defence strategy. Congress, he said, was showing a particular interest in this issue and Mr Taft

would be reporting back as soon as he had returned from Europe.

The clear implication of Mr Carlucci's remarks was that Washington intends to keep up the pressure on Nato allies over modernizing the nuclear weapons systems deployed with allied forces in Europe.

Although the United States is examining a number of weapons systems for its own forces, Washington wanted a firm nod of approval from Europe to demonstrate solidarity on this key issue of modernization.

At the meeting, allies, particularly West Germany, who had previously expressed political alarm at the prospect of authorizing a nuclear modernization programme so soon after the signing of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, were content to support the development of systems without having to accept any date for deployment.

This "step by step" approach, which has been characteristic of Nato's strategy for years, has let the doubters off the hook, but has also given the Americans, strongly backed by Britain, the assurance that when the day of decision comes, the West Germans will go along with

deployment of the new systems on their soil.

Mr Carlucci indicated confidence that he could persuade Congress to back development of a successor to Lance. Although there are "four or five" systems under examination at present, the favourite is a nuclear version of the US Army Tactical Missile System, although Congress will have to lift a restriction before development could go ahead.

Under a long-standing military requirement drawn up by the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, currently General John Galvin, the Lance missile is recommended for replacement in about 1992 and a new stand-off air-launched cruise missile for Nato dual-capable aircraft in the mid to late 1990s.

Yesterday Mr Carlucci emphasized that modernization was already under way. He said: "Dual-capable aircraft are being modernized. Nuclear artillery is being modernized. In terms of Lance, there has been a decision that there should be a Lance follow-on."

"We haven't yet determined what the range should be, nor what the requirements are. But we are some time away from any deployment de-

cision, so there is no need for the Alliance as such to make any decision right now."

The communiqué published after the meeting outlines the new spirit of agreement over modernization. It says: "We have confirmed that the forces remaining after the INF treaty must be kept survivable, responsive and effective and structured in an adequate and balanced way. We also endorse our step-by-step approach towards the measures necessary to achieve our objectives and have provided further guidance on the way ahead."

Much of the language of the communiqué echoed the statement after the Nato summit last month, including the emphasis on keeping nuclear forces "up to date where necessary", a phrase that appeared to satisfy Mrs Thatcher at the time, even though she fought hard for the word "modernization" to be put in the text.

Mr Carlucci would not be drawn yesterday on the options for "retasking" current nuclear assets.

On Wednesday, the defence ministers had been given an extensive intelligence briefing on the steps being taken by the Soviet Union to restructure its nuclear forces.

Ligachov's future in doubt as he misses meetings

From Our Correspondent, Moscow

The absence of Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Kremlin second in command, at two Communist Party meetings on ideology — his sphere — sparked fresh speculation yesterday that his responsibilities had been taken over by a close associate of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

Rumours had circulated earlier this month that Mr Ligachov, aged 67, had lost at least part of his portfolio to Mr Alexander Yakovlev, Mr Gorbachev's ally, after an apparently unsuccessful conservative challenge to reform mounted by the daily newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya*.

At a press conference, Mr Vadim Perfilov, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, refused to comment on Mr Ligachov's absence from the meetings on Wednesday, saying that he had already denied last week that there had been a "redistribution of duties" within the Politburo.

Pravda said yesterday that Mr Yakovlev, who is the Politburo member responsible for propaganda, had spoken at a meeting here on Wednesday attended by national and regional media officials.

Mr Ligachov, however, is the official Communist Party ideological watchdog, whose duties are said to include supervision of the press and television.

Mr Yakovlev also attended the opening of a conference devoted to history, which would determine how historians and writers should reflect perestroika (restructuring) in their work.

Mr Ligachov, reputedly a conservative hardliner, was also believed to oversee historical orientation through his ideological portfolio.

Mr Ligachov met Mr Joe Slova, the South African Communist Party leader, on Wednesday and was not on the list of participants at either meeting reported by Pravda.

The Kremlin second in command was said to have

had a hand in the March 13 article in *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, signed by Nina Andreyeva, a Leningrad chemist, which complained about attacks against Stalin and warned that perestroika was moving away from Communist principles by encouraging liberalization.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, last Friday denied Western reports of a rift between Mr Gorbachev and Mr Ligachov, the same day that the latter reappeared in public after a three-week absence. He was seen on television chatting and joking with Mr Gorbachev at a ceremony marking Lenin's birthday.

The exact responsibilities of Mr Yakovlev and Mr Ligachov have always been unclear, as Mr Yakovlev's official propaganda portfolio overlaps with Mr Ligachov's overall ideological duties.

Western diplomats expressed surprise that Mr Ligachov had not attended Wednesday's meeting. "It's his patch after all," one said. But they cautioned that it was "too early" to deduce that there had been a permanent shift in responsibilities.

Meanwhile, the debate between the conservatives and the reforming wings of the party burst into the open again yesterday with the publication of an article in the same vein as the *Sovetskaya Rossiya* piece, bitterly criticizing supporters of perestroika.

The commentary in *Molodaya Gvardiya* was the first conservative anti-perestroika manifesto to be published since April 5 when Pravda, in an editorial in which Mr Gorbachev is said to have collaborated, repudiated the *Sovetskaya Rossiya* article.

The debate between the conservatives and reformers continues while preparations are made for a key conference in June, at which the progress of Mr Gorbachev's reforms will be assessed.

How Thatcher scuppered US Navy

From Michael Binyon, Washington, and Michael Evans, Brussels

President Reagan's controversial decision to allow Canada to buy British submarines using American-designed nuclear technology was taken in the teeth of strong opposition from the US Navy, and mainly because Mrs Thatcher used her considerable influence with him, American officials have made clear.

The decision, which has caused a big stir here in the light of previous American refusals to share its sensitive naval nuclear technology with any ally apart from Britain, was taken because of the close ties between the US and

Britain and Canada. Opposition to the US technology transfer waiver was strong within the Defence Department and among some congressmen.

The US has emphasized, however, that this exception will not be repeated for any other country, and the ban on the transfer of submarine nuclear technology remains.

Although the US Congress still has to approve an amendment to the 1958 Anglo-American Co-operation Treaty, President Reagan's endorsement was seen by British officials as the final big

hurdle. British officials at the Nato Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Brussels, felt that President Reagan's decision was a sign that the US would prefer Canada to buy the British Trafalgar Class submarines rather than the smaller French Rubis Class boats.

The role that Mrs Thatcher's special relationship with Mr Reagan played was underlined by Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister in remarks to American reporters last Friday.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, speaking in Brussels yes-

terday, said: "I've expressed my great appreciation to the President and to Mr Carlucci (the US Defence Secretary) and his colleagues for their extremely positive and helpful attitude to this matter."

The Canadian contract, expected to be awarded by the summer, is worth about £4 billion. Trafalgar Class submarines are currently built by the Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Company in Barrow-in-Furness.

If Britain wins the contract, the first submarine would be built at Barrow and the rest in Canada, with Vickers' expertise.

Arab protest strike brings an uneasy quiet to Bethlehem

From Ian Murray, Bethlehem

Huge boulders and wrecked cars blocked the main road up to the Manger yesterday as Bethlehem observed another general strike ordered by the underground leadership of the Palestinian "intifada" (uprising). Oil had been poured on some of the steep roads in the town centre, making driving difficult, and except for a few Israeli Army patrols the streets were deserted.

Like everywhere else in the occupied territories, the town was at a standstill as Palestinians obeyed their secret orders to stop work and close businesses as another sign of protest over the killing in Tunis of Abu Jihad.

The strike, the most rigidly observed so far, came just as Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, said that he believed the Army was beginning to bring the four-and-a-half month old "intifada" under control. The closed shutters along the streets of Bethlehem indicate that he may have spoken too soon.

Although Bethlehem is so far the only place where Palestinians have killed an Israeli soldier since the start of the disturbances in December, it is the opening and closing of its shops that has most obviously revealed the power of the underground leadership.

Only 10 minutes down the road from Jerusalem, its shuttered businesses and almost silent streets bear stark witness to how the unrest has changed a whole way of life. In a few short months Bethlehem has turned from being a bustling shopping centre into an embattled frontier town.

The Israeli Army has erected a frontier across the

main road in from Jerusalem. A khaki tent with a tall, white pole flying the Israeli flag outside has been pitched beside an Arab monumental mason's workshop where freshly carved gravestones are on display. Across the road, a roll of barbed wire and spikes and metal barriers force vehicles through the kind of chicane that exists on many an international frontier. The border with the West Bank, which many Israelis have tried to forget for 20 years, has been re-established by the Army.

Farther down the road, where the shops begin, the change with the recent past is most noticeable. Less than six months ago this was the place for the non-religious Jew to come and do Saturday shopping. It had become so popular over the previous year that extra police had to be drafted in to direct the traffic.

The noise was tremendous. Rival greengrocers loudly extolled the virtues of their shining aubergines or plump bananas. Busloads of tourists would stop for apples. Inside the supermarkets the international community queued to buy Belgian chocolates, English marmalade, gin and pink slices of local ham. Shopkeepers opened new tills and bought Mercedes.

Now that will all change. The oranges and grapefruit, too perishable to last with the vastly reduced turnover, have vanished. Sinteras, one of the cleanest, most modern butcher shops you could find anywhere in the world, has been shut for the past six weeks. The stuffed cow in its window is in the dark behind the shutters. The super-

markets do open, but only for the permitted three hours a day, and even then they do not open their metal doors. Most prefer customers to go round to the back door in a "knock twice and ask for Ahmed" ritual which ensures that only known old customers come in.

In the dark interiors stocks are low, the freezers are three-quarters empty, the dairy coolers are running at half capacity, the few strings of sausages hang in sad solitude behind the limited cheese.

Outside, the tourist buses still make their way to the Church of the Nativity, but Manger Square is not crowded and many of the vehicles parked there are army trucks. Israeli flags festoon the police station, where nearly all the Arab policemen have resigned. The shutters are down on the souvenir shops.

The tourists, in their blue and white "Welcome to Israel" hats, may not realize that anything has changed. They may even think that the streets are always silent as it says in the carols.

But it is an enforced and deafening silence. For fear of retribution, either from the Army or the "intifada", the shops are closed. The temporary frontier set up by the Army between Bethlehem and Jerusalem is looking more and more permanent.

● JERUSALEM: A bodyguard for the Israeli-appointed Palestinian mayor of Hebron, in the occupied West Bank, shot and seriously wounded a Palestinian youth yesterday when demonstrators, demanding the mayor's resignation, tried to storm the town hall. Palestinian sources said.

Slogan-painters hit the royal yacht

From Christopher Morris Melbourne

Australian Navy frogmen checked the hull of the Britannia yesterday after protesters managed to breach security and paint a slogan in support of Aborigines on the bow of the royal yacht in Brisbane.

The 24-hour guard at wharf No 4, where the Britannia was docked, has been strengthened and embarrassed police chiefs last night ordered a full investigation into the incident.

Under cover of darkness the protesters managed to swim across the Brisbane River to the wharf and used bright red paint to write the demand: "End the killing time" on the port bow. This was a reference to the death of more than 100 Aboriginal people in police custody during the past eight years, many of them in mysterious circumstances, now being investigated by a Royal Commission. The slogan - suspected of being painted by white supporters of the Aborigines - was removed yesterday morning.

The protest, just 48 hours before the Queen arrived in Brisbane to open World Expo '88 before boarding the royal yacht to sail to Sydney, has caused considerable alarm among police and security officials. They are worried because hundreds of Aborigines are converging on Brisbane determined to hold demonstrations to coincide with the Expo opening and to focus world attention on their demands for land rights. Extra police are being drafted into Brisbane to counter disturbances or attempts to disrupt the royal visit.

The Queen, continuing her Australia tour, was informed of the incident in Melbourne where she spent a hectic morning visiting the new Australian ballet school and going on a walkabout amid April showers. She also visited the Victorian Museum to look at an exhibition on the first white settlers' impressions of Australia.

The Queen and Duke then



The Queen enjoying a sheepdog trial demonstration yesterday in Geelong, Victoria.

travelled to Geelong where the Prince of Wales attended a school. Nearly 10,000 school-children were given the day off to welcome the royal couple. But what intrigued the Queen most was Spud, a border collie

who wore a wrist watch strapped to his front leg for a sheepdog demonstration. According to Spud's owner, Mr Peter Sharp, it is to know whether to go clockwise or anti-clockwise when rounding

up sheep. When the Queen remarked that the Buckingham Palace corps don't wear watches, Mr Sharp replied: "That's probably because, m'am, there are enough clocks around the Palace."

Death toll still rising from leak at Bhopal

Delhi - A report submitted to the Madhya Pradesh assembly yesterday said that 1,750 more people may die in the next seven years as a result of the gas leak from the Union Carbide factory at Bhopal. (Our Correspondent writes.)

The state's Chief Minister, Mr Arjun Singh, put the death toll since 1984 at 2,998 and said that 816 other deaths were under investigation.

The report called for 3.7 billion rupees (£154 million) to be spent on financial and medical rehabilitation of the victims.

Minister back

Khartoum (Reuters) - Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi was re-elected as Sudan's Prime Minister in a prelude to the formation of a government of national unity.

Gold sentence

Dhaka (Reuters) - Tony Perkins, from Britain, who admitted trying to smuggle £32,000 of gold into Bangladesh, was jailed for life.

Fury at death

Karachi - Pakistani villagers set seven army trailers on fire in Sind province after a motorcyclist was crushed by an army vehicle.

Aids embargo

Delhi (AFP) - India will ease foreigners carrying the Aids virus, the Minister for Health and Family Welfare said.

Wall scaled

Berlin (Reuters) - An East German sound technician injured his ankle as he scaled the Berlin Wall to the West.

Jail break-in

Stockholm - A man armed with a sub-machine gun broke into a prison at Norrköping and freed two prisoners.

Pretoria uses rebel link to force Maputo talks

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa's connivance with the rebel Mozambique National Resistance is the spectre behind renewed efforts to bring about a summit between President Botha and President Chissano, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

A special envoy of President Chissano, the Mozambican Minister of International Co-operation, Mr Jacinto Veloso, flew unannounced to Cape Town on Tuesday for talks with the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Roelof "Pik" Botha.

Afterwards Mr Botha said Mr Veloso had delivered a message of goodwill from President Chissano to the South African leader. He said the possibility of a meeting between the two heads of state was discussed.

It would be their first meeting since President Chissano succeeded the late Samora Machel, who died in an air crash on the border between Mozambique and South Africa in October 1986.

Yesterday it was reported from Maputo that Mr Veloso had returned with a message from Mr Botha for President Chissano. No details were given but Mr Veloso confirmed that a meeting between the two leaders was discussed in Cape Town. He added that relations between the two countries would first have to improve.

What is known is that during the Cape Town talks it was agreed to reactivate the Joint Security Commission, established under the 1984 Nkomati non-aggression

treaty between South Africa and Mozambique.

President Chissano withdrew Mozambican participation in the commission in 1986 after it became clear that South African collusion with the Mozambican rebels was continuing.

Diplomatic sources in South Africa said that although there has been no overt reaction, the South African Government was embarrassed by a US State Department report that compared rebel activities with killings by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

The report said at least 100,000 civilians had been killed in cold blood by the rebels. The US is vigorously following up the report.

Mr Roy Stacey, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, told a conference in Maputo that rebels were carrying out "one of the most brutal holocausts" since the Second World War. Rebels were waging "a systematic and brutal war of terror through forced labour, starvation, physical abuse and wanton killing".

South Africa inherited the role of supporting the rebels from the Rhodesian Army, which set them up mainly to counter Mr Robert Mugabe's guerrillas. The rebels have been hampered by internal dissent and have failed to project any form of ideology apart from their hatred for the Government in Maputo.

South Africa is now receiving clear signals from the West that the time has arrived to

dump the rebels. When South Africa signed the Nkomati treaty, it undertook to stop helping the rebels, but suspicion of complicity persists.

During the talks in Cape Town Mr Veloso said that although Mozambique stood firm in its pledge not to allow the ANC to use its territory to launch attacks against South Africa, it remained convinced that the rebels continued to receive support and advice from South Africa.

Mr Veloso was informed that the South African Government was equally convinced that ANC guerrillas were operating from Mozambican territory.

There have been other developments pointing towards a change in the relationship between the two countries. Earlier this week it was disclosed that Mr Gavin Relfy, chairman of the Anglo American Corporation, held talks with President Chissano on the possible development of a forestry, agricultural and natural gas project.

Business sources in Johannesburg say the corporation would not consider re-entering Mozambique without guarantees about security.

But it is the search for oil off the Mozambican coast which has been attracting most international interest and South Africa, vulnerable as it is to sanctions, is clearly involved. Probably unrelated to this week's events was the assassination in Lisbon last week of Evo Fernandes, a mixed-race Portuguese and former president of the rebels.

US changes tack in attempt to force removal of Noriega

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States is attempting to negotiate a new deal with General Manuel Noriega, the strongman of Panama, under which he would remain in power for some time before resigning and going into exile.

Washington's willingness to compromise amounts to a humiliating acknowledgment that its attempt to topple the dictator quickly through economic pressure has turned into a policy disaster, with economic and political implications in Panama and beyond.

Mr Michael Kozak, Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America, is on a secret trip to Panama to try to negotiate a deal. He may hold direct talks with General Noriega if it appears that an agreement is in the making.

Panama is in political turmoil and economic chaos because of US sanctions, with record numbers of Panamanians trying to leave the country. Applications for US visas are being received at the rate of more than 5,000 a month.

Washington's new plan was asked if US policy against General Noriega last week, when Mr Kozak was last

in Panama City. US officials have concluded that the dictator could retain power for weeks or months while the Panamanian economy suffered grave and perhaps permanent damage. An early change of course in American policy, including modification of sanctions, is now regarded as essential and inevitable.

Across-the-board sanctions were imposed with such haste that some inevitable repercussions were overlooked by administration officials, such as the threatened eviction of American nationals from their homes because they are banned from paying rent.

US nationals have complained bitterly about not being allowed to pay domestic gas, telephone and electricity bills. Airlines are prevented from paying landing fees and, strictly speaking, US citizens are not allowed to pay departure tax.

Mr Charles Redman, the State Department spokesman, was asked if US policy against General Noriega had failed. "You've got to have some patience," he said. "Things

don't happen overnight." But privately, senior officials admit that the sanctions had been a mistake. The once-prosperous Panamanian banking system will probably never fully recover. And the policy has done immeasurable damage to US relations with countries throughout Latin America, where the intervention is bitterly resented.

President Reagan has ruled out military intervention unless the Panama Canal is threatened. He therefore has little option but to offer compromises to persuade General Noriega to go. The central concession is his willingness to stretch out the process for the strongman to go.

A primary reason for the failure was US inability to gather opposition forces around any single figure.

● PANAMA CITY: The Panama Government said it had ordered a crackdown on the opposition after uncovering what it called a plot of urban violence against General Noriega (Reuters reports). Human rights activists said seven people had been arrested.

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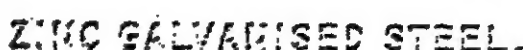
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Kim Dae Jung prepares to unseat Roh

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

After almost two decades in the political wilderness, Mr Kim Dae Jung is preparing to enter South Korea's Parliament as its most powerful opposition leader, to the undisputed dismay of the Government.

To the workers, farmers and students who flocked to support his Party for Peace and Democracy in general elections on Tuesday, Mr Kim is a cult figure.

When he campaigns in his native Cholla, a rural and relatively under-developed province in the south-west, he is followed by adoring crowds in the manner of a prophet who will deliver his oppressed people to the promised land of democracy and prosperity.

To the ruling Democratic Justice Party, he is a taciturn, disruptive and dangerous adversary. Its perception of Mr Kim was neatly caricatured in a cartoon in *The Korea Times* yesterday, which portrayed a kneeling man (the ruling party) recoiling in horror as a fire-breathing dragon emerged from a ballot box.

Deprived of a working majority in the 299-member National Assembly, President Roh has appealed for unity and compromise with the disparate opposition forces. Quite how this will be achieved with the ruling party's sworn enemy prominent in their ranks is hard to imagine.

Mr Kim, aged 62, was jailed in the 1970s for his opposition

to President Park, and began this decade under sentence of death for alleged sedition against the regime of President Chun. The penalty was commuted to life imprisonment; eventually he was allowed to go into exile in the United States, and further persecution followed his return to Korea in 1985.

The veteran dissident leader has good reason to detest authoritarian rulers, and he counts the present Government among them.

"What we are seeing today is a continuation of the Chun regime... This is still essentially military rule," he told a press conference yesterday. He accepts the reality of Mr Roh functioning as President, but still regards his election as fraudulent and illegitimate.

Mr Kim, whose normally stern features were occasionally creased into a smile yesterday, endeavoured to present a moderate image. His party would campaign strenuously for social justice, pay special attention to the welfare of the under-privileged, and vigorously defend freedom of speech and human rights. Providing the ruling party honoured its pledges to implement democratic reforms, it would find a responsive partner in the Party for Peace and Democracy.

If it did not, however, there would be trouble. The smile disappeared as Mr Kim enunciated his conditions for co-operation — the immediate



Mr Kim Dae Jung, right, congratulating a Party for Peace and Democracy member yesterday on his election to the National Assembly. Mr Kim promised that he would not cause political trouble that could hamper the Seoul Olympics in September.

release of an estimated 1,000 (non-communist) political prisoners, a ban on political activities by the police and intelligence agencies, and genuine freedom of the press.

Mr Kim has probably the most loyal, if not the largest, support of any political leader in South Korea. Many regard his demands as reasonable and long overdue. It is just the way he goes about enforcing them that alarms his opponents and rivals. One of them

— his former persecutor, General Chun — has every reason to fear his "second coming". "We intend to settle the whole legacy of the Fifth (Chun) Republic. We are going to investigate the corruption, massing of wealth and other illegal activities by Chun and his relatives."

Mr Kim now has the ability to do so, providing he can persuade other opposition parties to support him in invoking sweeping new As-

sembly powers of inquiry into state affairs.

Another target will be Mr Roh, whom he intends to unseat if possible with a probe into alleged fraud during the presidential election.

Democratic Justice Party policy advisers are confident that Mr Kim will be restrained by his elevation to a more responsible position in the legislature. "It's just a lot of hot air," one said yesterday. "He'll calm down once he's in

the Assembly and realizes he has to compromise for the good of the country."

Whether this is true, he will be under pressure from multitudes in Cholla and working-class districts of Seoul to justify their faith in him.

● Graft charges: Prosecutors yesterday arrested Mr Yum Bo Hyun, the former Mayor of Seoul, on graft charges, the latest step in a probe of alleged corruption under the administration of General Chun.

Doubts persist over new laws for Hong Kong

Hong Kong (Reuter) — Hong Kong residents will retain the right to move about freely, travel abroad and emigrate after the colony reverts to the control of China, the first draft of a post-1997 Basic Law says.

The 10-chapter draft document, headed *Fundamental Rights and Duties of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Inhabitants*, was made public simultaneously in Peking and Hong Kong yesterday.

It was published amid reports of last-minute disputes in the drafting committee over the formation of Hong Kong's first government after 1997.

The first version to appear was in Chinese. Officials said the English text had been delayed by translation problems and was not expected before next week.

They added that there had been some doubt about whether the document would be printed and published in time because of last-minute changes by the committee, which has been holding meetings in Peking.

The Peking Government has charged a committee of 58 Chinese officials and Hong Kong Chinese representatives with producing a Basic Law, which will act as a constitution after 1997.

Britain and China signed an agreement in 1984 under which Peking regains sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, agreeing to make it into a Special Administrative Region.

Proclaiming "One Country, Two Systems," China pledged Hong Kong would stay capitalist and govern itself until at least 2047.

Legal experts said that the problems surrounding the Basic Law were typified by its approach to the legal systems operating in Hong Kong and China.

Hong Kong's legal system is based on British law, which one legal source said could be explained as permitting anything that is not illegal. In China, he said, the opposite is the case, with the law stating what is allowed.

Although Hong Kong is to retain its own laws under the 1984 agreement, legal sources said Chinese officials had inserted a number of conditional clauses in the draft.

The Chinese officials have also insisted that any final interpretation of the Basic Law must come from the standing committee of the National People's Congress in Peking. Mr Helmut Sohmen, a

Hong Kong legislator and businessman, said earlier this week the rough draft he had seen was "amateurish".

But he thought that it would be improved by 1990, the deadline for the final version. Mr Martin Lee, a Hong Kong legislator and member of the drafting committee, said that the draft was announced after heated last-minute debate and was not representative of the wishes of the people of the colony.

"These are options put forward by a minority of members," he said. "It is unlikely we will have a sufficiently representative legislature."

Mr Lee, an outspoken proponent of immediate democracy in the territory, also said that the executive branch would hold too much power under the Basic Law, and the legislature would be too weak to provide adequate checks and balances.

He said this could undermine confidence in the territory and convince many people to leave ahead of the transfer of power.

"This emigration tide could soon turn into an emigration tidal wave," he said.

Mr Sze-to Wah, another outspoken legislator, said of the document, which includes a number of possible formulas for government structure: "We have not resolved any of the problems. We have only publicized them."

Western diplomatic sources here said that if China was to maintain world confidence in Hong Kong as a key international finance centre, the Basic Law would have to reflect clearly the legal and economic basis of the territory.

Since the Sino-British agreement was signed, there has been a steadily increasing exodus of emigrants from Hong Kong, mainly from the professional and middle classes.

The Government says it does not keep migration statistics but many leading companies have said it is getting harder to recruit middle-level managers.

Copies of the draft are to be distributed free among Hong Kong's 5.6 million people and their views on it will be collected during the next five months by a special consultative committee.

Although the present Hong Kong Government does not have a role, it is expected to ask 180,000 of the colony's civil servants for their views and may pass them on informally to Peking.

Famine in Ethiopia

Tigré crisis looms as aid work halted

By Andrew McEwen

A devastating famine on the scale of the 1984-85 Ethiopian famine is now expected to hit the north-eastern province of Tigré within weeks.

Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva made this prediction yesterday after the final collapse of their relief operations.

In a separate development, field workers of another international relief agency, which asked not to be named, said that Tigré was "on the brink of a huge crisis".

The Ethiopian Government halted the ICRC's work on April 5 because many of the people it fed lived in rebel-held areas of Tigré. Hopes that it might be restarted crumbled this week when Addis Ababa ordered the Swiss-based charity to remove its planes from the country.

Five small Twin Otter aircraft which had been used by the ICRC to distribute food in rebel-held areas flew out of the country on Wednesday.

The Ethiopian Government's row with the ICRC and some other agencies came after a string of rebel victories both in Tigré and in Eritrea.

The ICRC was apparently singled out for the toughest treatment because of its uncompromising policies. Its charter requires it to help the needy regardless of which side they are on. It insisted on using its own staff, lorries and planes to distribute food without Ethiopian Government involvement.

It was ordered to withdraw its 45 foreign staff from Tigré and Eritrea on April 5, and since then its operation has been effectively mothballed. It still has 44 lorries and an estimated 58,000 tonnes of food locked up in warehouses in the north.

The Ethiopian Government asked the ICRC to hand over the operation to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, but the ICRC refused. An official in Geneva said that donors had a right to know that the food and money was supervised by ICRC staff. Britain contributed 13,700 tonnes of food to its effort in January.

The April 6 order to remove

foreign workers also applied to other relief agencies, but the United Nations World Food Programme has since been allowed to send three of its staff back as observers. But as the UN only delivers food, using its own fleet of lorries, and does not distribute it, it is viewed in a different light.

The ICRC's stand has wide support among international



Mr Patten: Giving more food to help Sudanese refugees.

aid officials, who fear that the Ethiopian Red Cross would be unable to exercise the same independence as the ICRC. Addis Ababa has said that it will not deliver food to rebel-held areas, although 90 per cent of Tigré's countryside and six of the eight towns are under the control of the Tigré People's Liberation Front.

Before the clampdown, the ICRC delivered 8,687 tonnes of food to 541,000 people in February. By March deliveries were falling because of disruption caused by a large offensive by the liberation front.

Oxfam is still feeding 70,000 people in Tigré, operating from the Government side, while a further 300,000 are receiving help from the rebels' relief arm and 600,000 are reached by agencies working from Sudan. But 1.5 million remain at risk.

Mr Christopher Patten, Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, yesterday held talks on the situation with ICRC officials in Geneva. He also announced an allocation of 5,000 tonnes of food to UN-administered relief efforts in the west of Ethiopia where 250,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived.

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Hong Kong legislation is seen as "amateurish" by some. But he thought that it was improved by 1988. Mr. Martin Lee, a Hong Kong legislator and member of the drafting committee, said that the draft was announced after heated 45-minute debate and was a representative of the wishes of the people of the colony. "These are options put forward by a minority of members," he said. "It is not a representative legislature." Mr. Lee, an outspoken proponent of immediate democracy in the territory, also said that the executive branch would hold too much power under the Basic Law and the legislature would be too weak to provide adequate checks and balances. He said this could undermine confidence in the territory and convince some people to leave ahead of the transfer of power. "This emigration tide could soon turn into an emigration tidal wave," he said. Mr. Sze-to Wah, another outspoken legislator, said of the document, which includes a number of possible formulae for government structure: "We have not resolved any of the problems. We have not publicized them." Western diplomatic sources here said that if China was to maintain world confidence in Hong Kong as a key international finance centre, the Basic Law would have to reflect clearly the legal and economic basis of the territory. Since the Sino-British agreement was signed, there has been a steadily increasing exodus of emigrants from Hong Kong, mainly from the professional and middle classes. The Government says it does not keep migration statistics but many leading companies have said it is getting harder to recruit middle-level managers. Copies of the draft are distributed free among the colony's 5.6 million people and their views on it will be heard during the next 18 months by a special consultative committee. Although the present Hong Kong Government does not have a role, it is expected that 10,000 of the colony's civil servants for their own and may pass them on to the mainland to Peking.

mine in Ethiopia

crisis looms
work halted

By Andrew McEwen

Through workers also applied for relief agencies, but the United Nations World Food Programme has since been allowed to send three of its staff back as observers. But the UN only delivers food using its own fleet of lorries and does not distribute it, it is noted in a different light. The ICRC's stand has not won support among international



Mr Patten: Giving more food to help Sudanese refugees

...als, who fear that the Sudan Red Cross would be unable to exercise the same independence as the ICRC. Mr. Patten has said that a Sudanese food to relief effort, although 40 per cent of the eight towns are under the control of the Tigray Liberation Front, the Sudanese Government has agreed to a further 30,000 tonnes of aid. The aid will be delivered by 100 lorries and 40,000 tonnes of aid. But 15 tonnes of aid are at risk. Christopher Patten, the British Minister for Overseas Development, yesterday said that the situation in Sudan was "very serious". He also announced that the UK had agreed to provide 5,000 tonnes of aid in the west of Sudan where 250,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived.

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PARLIAMENT

'Jingoistic' King under attack

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) said that the jingoistic answer Mr King had given last time about the shooting of the IRA members had intensified the whole situation.

More killings had gone on in the past few weeks than for a long time. Shooting to kill like that demanded an inquiry. "The tactics used by the paramilitary, on both sides, of just killing, when we could have arrested those three, should not be our tactics."

Mr King said that he did not immediately recall the "jingoistic answer". But it might have been that he expressed some considerable relief which the House shared that the most powerful bomb ever seen by the Spanish police, with all their experience of ETA, had not gone off in the confined streets of Gibraltar (Conservative cheer).

There could not be any decent MP who could not be than profoundly relieved that about 200

people did not meet deaths and injury at that time.

"If he says that there needs to be a full public inquiry, he will have heard me earlier answer that there is to be precisely that in the due legal form of an inquest before a jury. That is the proper procedure. That is what will now take place."

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C) asked if Mr King would ask the Irish Foreign Minister whether he was as fed up as Conservative MPs with television companies raking through the gutters of Gibraltar, finding people to rubbish the security services.

"Will he ask him if he is as fed up as we are with people who are weeping tears for an active IRA unit which would have been responsible for a major massacre in Gibraltar?"

Mr Flannery: You silly little boy. You don't understand it.

Mr King: I do very much share his concern about the proposal for a

television broadcast, which I understand may take place tonight. The Foreign Secretary has made representations to the IBA about it.

If the reports are correct that the programme will include live interviews with people who are likely then to be witnesses in the inquest, I think it raises very difficult issues indeed and may run the serious risk of prejudicing the rights of those concerned at the inquest.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman: Many people are concerned that instead of having three people facing the prospect of spending a long time behind bars for taking part in and planning a most horrific event, the Government may have created three new martyrs for old Ireland, three new victims of the Crown.

We regret very much the decision of the Foreign Secretary to go to the chairman of the IBA to try to prevent this film from being shown. This is a

further example of ministerial arm-twisting against the press and media.

The Government, in seeking to take this course of action, is itself prejudicing the issues. That bomb was 50 miles away. Those three were unarmed. Those were the facts. They should have been arrested. They should have been charged.

You have created martyrs and you are now trying to prevent proper examination of the Government's conduct by hiding behind the theory of an inquest where we all know there will be no examination of decisions made at Cabinet level about how these men and this woman were treated.

The Government is hiding behind the facts, running away again.

Mr King: I think that is the most unfortunate intervention I have ever heard (loud Conservative cheers).

He has presumed to stand at that Dispatch Box. I understand speaking on behalf of the Opposition, and

claims to know all the facts of this matter, in advance of the inquest and the evidence being given (Opposition protest).

Later, Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said that there would be no improvement in the political or security situation in the province if the people of the United Kingdom and the republic believed that the British Government was seeking to gag and silence the media and had colluded in the propagation of misinformation.

Mr King said that he was interested to know Mr Madden believed that the correct way to get at the truth was by a television broadcast in advance of the proper procedure of the inquest.

There were further exchanges relating to the television programme later during business questions.

Mr Frank Dobson, chief Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, wondered whether ministers would be seeking an injunction

to prevent the showing of the film.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, said that the Foreign Secretary had been in contact with Lord Thomson, asking him to postpone transmission of the programme because it included interviews with potential witnesses at the inquest.

The Foreign Secretary had been concerned that the coroner's inquest might be prejudiced and he (Mr Wakeham) would have thought that that would have been the concern of all MPs.

Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham, Erdington, Lab) called for a debate on the "gross political interference" by the Foreign Secretary in attempting to browbeat the IBA to prevent the *This Week* programme being shown tonight.

Mr Wakeham repeated his earlier answer. The Foreign Secretary had simply pointed out the dangers to the IBA.

Concern over schools religion

The Prime Minister added her voice to those expressing concern about the lack of religious teaching in schools as laid down in the Education Act, 1944.

Mr Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burnwood, C) asked if she had read of the grave concern at the trend of religious education in multi-faith schools? Would she reaffirm the Government's commitment to the teaching of Christianity to all children?

Mrs Thatcher said that religious education had been made compulsory in the 1944 Act.

Most believed, and this was borne out by debates at the time, that religious education was predominantly to be the Bible, but not exclusively. There was concern that this was not altogether being carried out.

Nato weapon decision

It was important that Nato ministers had agreed on the way ahead in modernization of nuclear weapons. Mrs Thatcher said during question time. It was vital to keep the weapons up to date.

Mr Alan Haslehurst (Saffron Walden, C) asked her to join him in welcoming the confirmation by Nato defence ministers in Brussels of the essential continuing role of nuclear weapons in their defence and of the need to keep them up to date.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. Nato defence ministers have agreed on guidance on modernization of nuclear weapons. It is important that they have agreed on the way ahead because the Soviet Union continues to modernize all nuclear weapons and we do the same.

Bank holiday reform

The Government is keen to spread the Bank holidays more evenly throughout the year so as to provide one in the autumn. Lord Trevelyan, for the Government, told peers during questions. One possibility was a Trafalgar day.

He was replying to peers who put forward possible alternatives for the present system of Bank holidays to prevent bunching in May. The Government is revising the position of the May Day Bank holiday, but no decision had yet been made, Lord Trevelyan said.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Tuesday: Finance (No 2) Bill, committee, first day. Wednesday: Legal Aid Bill, second reading. Debate on the Royal Group. Thursday: Debate on agriculture.

Friday: Private member's Bill: Abortion (Amendment) Bill, remaining stages. The main business in the House of Lords will be: Tuesday: Education Reform Bill, committee, first day. Wednesday: Debates on productivity and on the social security changes.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bill: Licensing (Retail Sales) Bill. Community Health Councils (Access to Information) Bill. Report stages. Access to Medical Reports Bill, committee. Medical Examination of Children at Risk Bill, second reading.

Bid to divide Howe and Thatcher criticized

There seemed to be an attempt to divide the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, over their comments about Mr Charles Haughey, Taoiseach of the Irish Republic, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

The Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP) initiated the exchanges when he asked Mr King what message he would give to Mr Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, for Mr Haughey.

When he next met Mr Lenihan, would he give him the message by Sir Geoffrey Howe, commending Mr Haughey as a true and great patriot, or would he give the denunciation by Mrs Thatcher in the Commons on Tuesday?

Mr King said that he would have pleasure in endorsing the messages of both Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey (laughter).

"I see no difficulty in that whatsoever. I would not have thought that there was any MP who would not regard Mr Haughey as a very true patriot for his own country."

But everyone would want the fullest co-operation, not least in the defeat of terrorism and fighting against the common evil that it represented in the island.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) asked if he would confirm to Mr Lenihan that the state-like views expressed by the Foreign Sec-

N IRELAND

retary represented the views of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

If it was so, would he also confirm to Mr Lenihan that the "petulant display" by the Prime Minister on Tuesday was the result of irrational pique rather than rational political judgement?

Mr King said that he suspected that there was what one might call two sides of the spectrum and that there was some attempt to divide Mrs Thatcher and the Foreign Secretary. "We are together on these matters. We share a common approach."

If Mr Mallon were to read the whole of the Foreign Secretary's speech, Sir Geoffrey had made clear that the agreement carried commitments and responsibilities to both sides, that it involved obligations on both sides. "It is not part of a process of sliding towards somewhere else."

It was "a resolution of the difficulties which have bedevilled relationships of the republic and the UK and Northern Ireland, subject only to change being possible by the democratic decision of the people of Northern Ireland."

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C) wanted Mr King to discuss with Mr Lenihan "the universal imposition by the Irish Parliament of restrictions on extradition from the republic to the UK on the unjustified ground of concern for the quality of British justice and the spurious concern for the rights

of so-called Irish citizens extradited to this country."

Mr King said that Mr Stanbrook had picked out an extract from the Foreign Secretary's speech where he had said there was no monopoly of grievance. He had made no secret in the speech "that we had our grievances on the way that the extradition issue had been handled", but that they sought to resolve these problems within the normal relationships between the two countries.

He confirmed that he was most anxious to ensure, and he was sure that all those in the republic must be most anxious to ensure, at the earliest moment, effective extradition arrangements.

Later, Mr Nicholas Badger (Wolverhampton South West, C) said that, since the Anglo-Irish agreement was supposed to have improved the security situation, Mr King should comment on the important and clearly well considered speech by Mr Haughey in New York.

"Does he agree that that clearly repudiated the Anglo-Irish agreement?"

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) said that an amazing series of events had begun with an appalling statement from the Attorney General (Sir Patrick Mayhew) that certain people were above the rule of law. It had continued when a soldier jailed for life had been released after two-and-a-half years. That had been followed by the Gibraltar affair, which had led to the "Greek tragedy" of the Belfast funerals.

"Given the tension and anger that these events created, the Irish Prime Minister showed commendable restraint."

He asked Mr King to advise the Prime Minister to read Mr Haughey's speech and take the advice of himself (Mr King) and the Foreign Secretary, who had been appointed to conduct relations with the Irish Government.

Mr King said that he took great exception to a number of Mr Hume's comments. "In no sense is anybody in Northern Ireland above the law."

"I hope that he, surely, realizes that there is no benefit, if we are trying to establish better co-operation and working together to defeat the terrorists, in rehearsing the old grievances. We should try and work together in a constructive way."

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, asked Mr King to indicate, after the Prime Minister's statement, whether the Government of the Irish Republic had been more stinging or less in its efforts to defeat the men of violence in the past few months and whether there had been any effective break in cross-border co-operation.

In view of Mr Haughey's statement in Dublin, on his return from New York, that the Irish Government would continue to work the mechanisms of the Anglo-Irish agreement, why had the Prime Minister subsequently felt it necessary to say that she would seek assurances from the Irish Government that they were not backing away from their responsibilities under the agreement?

Mr King said that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary had both made absolutely clear the Government's commitment to the Anglo-Irish agreement.



Mr King (centre) to Mr Paisley: I endorse messages of both Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey

Labour protests at picket 'slur'

Angry protests from Labour MPs greeted an allegation from Mr David Shaw (Dover, C) that the Labour Party National Executive Committee had backed violence on the picket line at Dover.

He said that a photograph in the *Evening Standard* showed the home of a young stewardess in Dover where the door had been daubed "Scab" and "Kill". That daubing had occurred within 34 hours of the Labour Party national executive's expressing solidarity with the acts of violence and intimidation.

Mr Frank Dobson, chief Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs, said that Labour's national executive had expressed no solidarity with any acts of violence.

He wanted Mr Shaw to withdraw his allegation which cast a slur on Labour MPs.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, said he did not have any responsibility for Lab-

our Party policy. He was sure that Mr Shaw's comments reflected concern shown

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, C) said the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Employment should be ready to make an important statement because the situation in the Dover area was deteriorating. Communities were deeply divided. The right to work must be preserved.

Mr Wakeham agreed it was a very disturbing situation. He was sure that his colleagues would not hesitate to make a statement if they believed that to be the right course of action.

Mr Dobson said that 13 NEC members were MPs. The motion had been moved by Mr Neil Kinnock and seconded by Mr Roy Hattersley.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said the chair could not be held responsible for what MPs said in the House provided that it was in order.

272 weapons captured

N IRELAND

Since the beginning of the year, 103 people have been charged with serious offences in Northern Ireland, including five with murder and six with attempted murder, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions.

A total of 272 weapons, just over 65,000 rounds of ammunition and 2,700 lb of explosives had been recovered.

During the same period, the Garda Síochána in the republic had recovered 174 weapons, almost 136,000 rounds of ammunition and 600 lb of commercial explosives.

"The security threat remains high, but the courageous and determined efforts of the security forces are continuing to yield results."

The Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP) asked whether Mr King had any information that the murder on Tuesday on a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, Private Edward Gibson, had been an inside job.

"Can he confirm that another member of the UDR was to do the particular job that Mr Gibson was killed doing? Is he aware that that member of the UDR was told not to report for duty by the security forces? Another man, not in sympathy with the UDR, was to take his place."

"That man did not turn up, therefore Mr Gibson was put into the position to have to do that job and was then murdered. "The car that was used by these murderers was supposed to be in the possession of people who that day were away from the day, but left their keys in the car."

"Does this not indicate a very well organized and orchestrated inside job in Cookstown to kill members of the UDR?"

Mr King: While there certainly was a conspiracy, it is not a continuous process. It is a continuous process. It is a continuous process.

fact that he had only just gone on that round that day. I certainly have not heard any of the information he conveyed to the House.

Mr James Motyneaux (Lagan Valley, OUP) said that the Prime Minister had said on Tuesday that she would continue to press for effective security co-operation across the border.

"Why is it necessary now to press for delivery of the one and only promise made by Dublin when the agreement was signed two-and-a-half years ago?"

Mr King said that Mrs Thatcher had made clear the importance of continual work to improve cross-border security co-operation. As he had already said, there had been substantial arms seizures and recoveries of ammunition and explosives by the Garda Síochána.

"Everybody in Northern Ireland must take great comfort from the fact that these weapons of death have now been recovered from terrorist clutches. But it is a continual process."

Kinnock praises 'lead minister'

Since the Prime Minister had told the House on Wednesday that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the lead minister on exchange rates, who was the lead minister on benefits, Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, asked during Prime Minister's question time.

Mrs Thatcher: As I indicated in reply to that question, policies are the policies of the Government as a whole, and very successful they are (Conservative cheers).

Mr Kinnock: I am sorry the Prime Minister cannot tell us who is the lead minister for benefit rates, because I read in the *Daily Mail* this morning that it was the Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister alone, who was responsible for the U-turn yesterday. I wanted to give full credit where it was due.

Since the Prime Minister does appear to have some responsibility in these matters and since the savings on housing

benefit were to have been £640 million before the £100 million announced yesterday, could she tell us who now is going to lose the £340 million?

Is it not the case that these are the people who only six months ago were considered to be too poor to pay any rates but now, regardless of their ability to pay, are still going to have to pay 20 per cent of their rates?

Mrs Thatcher: I thank him for congratulating the entire Government on having a successful economic policy.

Mr Kinnock said that the Prime Minister did not seem to understand that those who were losing were concerned about the £4, £5, and £10 a week she had taken away from them. "If things are so good, why are they so bad?" (Opposition laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: He cannot understand if things are good. He knows full well they are good because the economy is run extremely well.

Licensing Bill amendments

Sunday drinking extended by error

An amendment by peers to extend Sunday drinking in public houses by an extra hour to 3pm was endorsed in the Commons early on Thursday morning after a Government admission that the proposal had got into the Licensing Bill in the Lords because of a "cock-up".

When Lords amendments were considered, Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that the amendment had been put into the Bill inadvertently.

He told Mrs Ann Taylor, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, that it had not been an act of deliberate Government policy. There had been two explanations: "One is conspiracy and the other is cock-up. It was cock-up" (laughter).

Mr Hogg moved that the House should agree with the amendment. He said the Government had not intended to extend Sunday licensing hours. The reason was not one of principle but was pragmatic. The objective had been to reconcile as many as possible to the passage of the Bill, which allows for extended opening hours on weekdays.

Mrs Taylor said that the minister had tried to justify the unjustifiable and was standing on its head all previous Govern-

ment statements on Sunday opening hours.

The proposal would create difficulties for public house staff. The brewers were concerned only with profit, which was why the Bill had been brought forward in the first place.

"It may have been incompetence by the Government which has led to this change, but it is a dangerous step and the Government is foolish to accept this amendment."

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said that the Government's intention originally was not to tinker with Sundays, but there had been an error in the Lords. "The result is that cock-up is now being made a virtue."

Mr David Steel, joint leader of the SLD, wondered if Sir Bernard would agree, as Father of the House, that he must have listened to many ministers commending Lords amendments, but could never have heard a minister arguing in favour of an amendment that it was unprincipled, inadvertent and a cock-up. These were three very good reasons that the proposal should be rejected.

Sir Paul Dean, the Deputy Speaker, said that if the word was used too often, "our debates will become somewhat inelegant".



Sir Bernard Braine promising not to use the word again.

He was sorry that Mr Hogg "has to defend the indefensible". There was no evidence of majority public support.

Mr Robert Crier (Bradford South, Lab) said that alcohol did cause ravages in society. "We know that because we see it among our own members. We are not supposed to say that anyone here is drunk, but we know that we could stop some of it by closing or limiting some of the bars in this place."

Threat to BBC licence urged

The following report of a Lords debate on the BBC appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government was urged to threaten to revoke the BBC's licence and take action under the royal charter if the corporation did not refrain from showing television dramas such as the recent play *Airbase*, seen by many as anti-American.

Lord Chalfont (Ind) initiated the debate in which many peers supported him in criticizing recent BBC drama such as *Airbase*, *The Monocled Mutineer* and the planned *Tumbledown*.

He said that the BBC had systematically contravened the requirements under the charter for impartiality.

The Government not only had the right to interfere in the content of BBC programmes but, in certain circumstances, a statutory duty to do so.

He could recite a whole list of programmes that could not be regarded as impartial.

The balancing of programmes was a confidence trick, giving rise to two biased programmes. *Airbase* was one of a long succession of controversial programmes. He would not waste time on talking about its artistic merits because it had none.

The entire production was a sustained and malevolent attack on a group of American Service-

TV DRAMAS

men whose bearing and reputation was of a very high standard and who made a high contribution to the security of the free world and therefore of Britain.

Lord Egan (Lab) also criticized *Airbase*, saying that not since the days of Goebbels had he seen such a vicious and tendentious misrepresentation of a group of people.

Lord Bosham-Carter (SLD) said that if Sir William Rees-Mogg, who had an unimpeachable distaste for the BBC, were appointed chairman of the proposed Broadcasting Standards Authority it would confirm the fears of those who felt that the Government was not interested in supporting the BBC as a valuable independent institution.

Lord Auman (Ind), who chaired the committee on the future of broadcasting, said he believed that there was a small clique of producers and writers who consistently denigrated not just the policies of the Government but also the authority of the state.

Their objective was to cover them with slime.

should be challenged, the established view should be clearly and fully put — and that had sometimes been lacking.

But one did not want to go back to the days of censorship by the Lord Chamberlain's office.

He could imagine nothing more disastrous than to threaten to revoke the BBC's licence.

Lord Orr-Ewing (C) said that it was a disaster when truth and fiction were inter-twined as in *The Monocled Mutineer* and the proposed *Tumbledown* play about the Falklands war.

He understood that in *The Falklands Play*, the playwright had been asked by the BBC to cut out aspects that showed Mrs Thatcher in a womanly light and leave in those that showed her as hard and domineering.

Lord Swann (Ind), former chairman of the BBC, said that much bias was in the eye of the beholder. If the licence was revoked it would make it easier for successive governments to do so again and again. That would lead to the precipice of totalitarian control.

For the Opposition, Lady Birk said that if the licence or charter were revoked it would be the start down a dangerous and slippery slope. Three recent plays had been criticized out of a total of 800.

People had the right to decide

what they wanted to see and could always turn off.

It was the responsibility of the BBC to respond to the mistakes it made. If there were no mistakes it probably meant there were no innovations.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the BBC chairman, Mr Marmaduke Hussey, had said that there was little merit in the *Airbase* programme and that it had been "one of those failures which are, I suggest, inevitable in such a wide and varied dramatic output".

Lord Chalfont had been right to complain and was entitled to claim that the programme did not live up to the standards expected of the BBC.

But that was not a matter which fell within the Government's responsibility. Nor did it offend against the charter.

If a requirement for impartiality were enforceable under the charter it would place the Home Secretary of the day in an intolerable position.

"He would be obliged to be the arbiter in any or all the representations which may be made to him about programme content."

That would be censorship and broadcasting by Government into broadcasting by Government dictat.

SPECTRUM

هكزاهن الأهل

Tournament of the Mind — top school

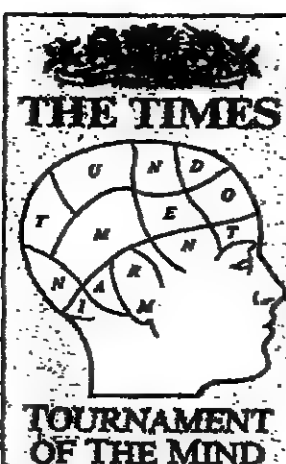
The Kimbolton Ten should have been hard at work in their first lesson of the day when news broke of their triumph in *The Times* Tournament of the Mind.

They had been summoned by the head, Roger Peel, a figure almost as immense and imposing as the stately Cambridge school which this mixed public school has occupied since picking it up for a song from the Earl of Manchester's family in 1948.

They assembled in an area which is really the entrance hall but which, through the vagaries of public school lingo, is called the Saloon. This is situated next to the Green Room, which is next to the head's room, which is actually called the Queen's Room because Catherine of Aragon died here.

She might well have come to life if only she could have seen the faces of the ten at the very moment, 10.03am yesterday, that they heard of their victory. They wore the same sort of expression that was once seen on famous people at the approach of Eamonn Andrews with a large book tucked under his arm.

However, boys and girls at Kimbolton do not become "over the moon" or "well



chuffed" on such occasions — just quietly elated. It's the masters who go berserk.

As we filed into the library for a pre-school Press conference, security seemed rather tight; but the Heselinian young men in combat fatigues were there only for the regular parade of the Combined Cadet Force.

So was group leader Adam Richardson (17, lower sixth, 10 A grades at O level) very, very brainy, or just a swift? Cries of "Both!" from the nine, Richardson himself, a remarkably accessible young

man for one so successful, handled the question with a statesman's skill. "We had group discussions. I co-ordinated the entries, and made suggestions as to which members should concentrate on which questions, depending on what I thought they would be good at."

It all seemed to have passed off with the democracy of a Quakers' meeting. Was there a consensus on which questions were the hardest, and which the easiest? Yes, the ones that posed fewest problems were those which could be cracked by the use of simultaneous equations, as the participants were fully trained for that sort of thing. The trickiest, they agreed, were the ones in the miscellaneous category.

Kimbolton's interest in the tournament started when two young physics teachers, Stephen White and Kevin Curtis, discussed it with some of their pupils.

Very soon there were 19 volunteers, who were divided into two teams.

"I've found myself going to the library in the evenings, and seen people beavering away among the reference books," said Mr Peel, evidently impressed. "You ask what we're good at here, and



Kimbolton's winning team. Back row (left to right): Michael Halford, Barnaby Poulton; middle row: Gay Littlewood, Susan Myers, Timothy Jenness, Estelle Maddocks; front row: Christopher Measures, Adam Richardson, Lisa Wall, and Andrew Loan

of course my temptation is to say "everything". Obviously, almost all the pupils in our winning team are science-oriented, and many of them have learnt quite advanced computer skills.

There must also be something in the Cambridgeshire air. It will not have escaped the notice of our Tournament followers that the winner of the individual section came from Cambridge.

If only the Reverend Ron-

ald Lancaster, teacher of chemistry, had also been a clairvoyant and foreseen the triumph. As a religious studies, and as a passionate maker of fireworks, he is an illuminator of the firmament twice over, and would surely have run up a rocket.

Hard words however for Messrs from both teachers and pupils alike, who said that while most of the questions were fair, some were ambiguously worded to the point of

confusion. Their verdict on setters' use of language: Could do better.

Pupils at Aylesbury High School were yesterday bemoaning their misfortune. Like Kimbolton, their team managed to answer all but one question correctly, but they were disqualified by Messrs because there was an error in the way the entry was completed. As a consolation prize the team will receive a *Times Atlas of the World*.

SCHOOLS' FINALS — THE ANSWERS

DAY 1
Puzzles: 1 15, 2 CARESS and SCARES 3 180999 (each number has four subtracted from it and the resultant figure is then squared). 4 220 revolutions.
General knowledge: 1 Catin or Teuton. 2 St Isidore of Seville. 3 Benet. 4 The Ogaden. 5 Samizdat.

DAY 2
Puzzles: 1 189 months (two planets are 90° in their orbit and the other two are 270° 2 The odd one out is Colombo; the others when unscrambled read Mysore, Indore and Ropar, all of which are in India. 3 Multiply, minus and divide. 4 186 squares (remember that there are squares on a skew).
General knowledge: 1 Potosi. 2 Giles Farnaby. 3 Fandango. 4 Hiroshima. 5 Laminar War or Greek War.

DAY 3
Puzzles: 1 181. 2 Cto. 3 The answer is 23; 9 times 1 divided by 3 to give you 3; on the other side 8 plus 8 divided by 8 to give you 2. 4 0.858235; vowels equal 425 each; consonants equal 365 each; the total value of the

consonants is then divided by the total value of the vowels (the answer had to be completely correct, although acceptable alternatives were credited).
General knowledge: 1 Mohire. 2 Dasyuridae or Dasyurine. 3 Hakkia. 4 Lammergeier. 5 Ben Hogen.

DAY 4
Puzzles: 1 33 2 The words read Buckeye, Bruchus, Emblica and Margosa. Bruchus is an insect, the rest are trees. 3 58,464,100,000,000.
General knowledge: 1 Monotropaceae. 2 Indra. 3 Paul Fleming. 4 Golems. 5 Longest.

DAY 5
Puzzles: 1 The comet passes planet A after 396 years and passes planet B after 66 years. 2 The missing words are STRIFE and PRIEST. 3 52.74. 4 L. The letters are the first and last letters of the signs of the zodiac, beginning with Aquarius.
General knowledge: 1 Mo-Zi. 2 Franz Grillparzer. 3 Krait. 4 Ventris. 5 Minima disease.

I.N.G.E.N.U.I.T.Y.

● INGENUITY, a new word game, starts next Monday in *The Times*. It will test not only your general knowledge but also your powers of detection. In any set of questions there may be one or two things that you happen to know; but mostly you will have to ferret out the answers and look things up. In every question there is a clue; but some clues are deliberately ambiguous.

● INGENUITY will be played for three weeks, with 10 questions per day — and for the winners there will be sets of the 1988 *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in a blue leather binding, each set worth £2,250. More competition details will be given on Monday.

● Meanwhile, for practice, try the questions below. There are the same number of boxes as letters in the answers. The answer to yesterday's teaser puzzle was HILLARY. Answers to today's puzzles on Monday.

1. Cistercian abbey in Auxerre where the official headgear of a murdered prelate is to be seen.

2. He was first when the rest were nowhere and he could have obscured the sun.

3. It cost 226 in London in 1978 and 308 in 1984, in which currency?

4. Surname of the man who became mayor of a town that might be near Haifa, but isn't.

5. Colour of British Army tunics during the Napoleonic Wars, thanks to a beetle.

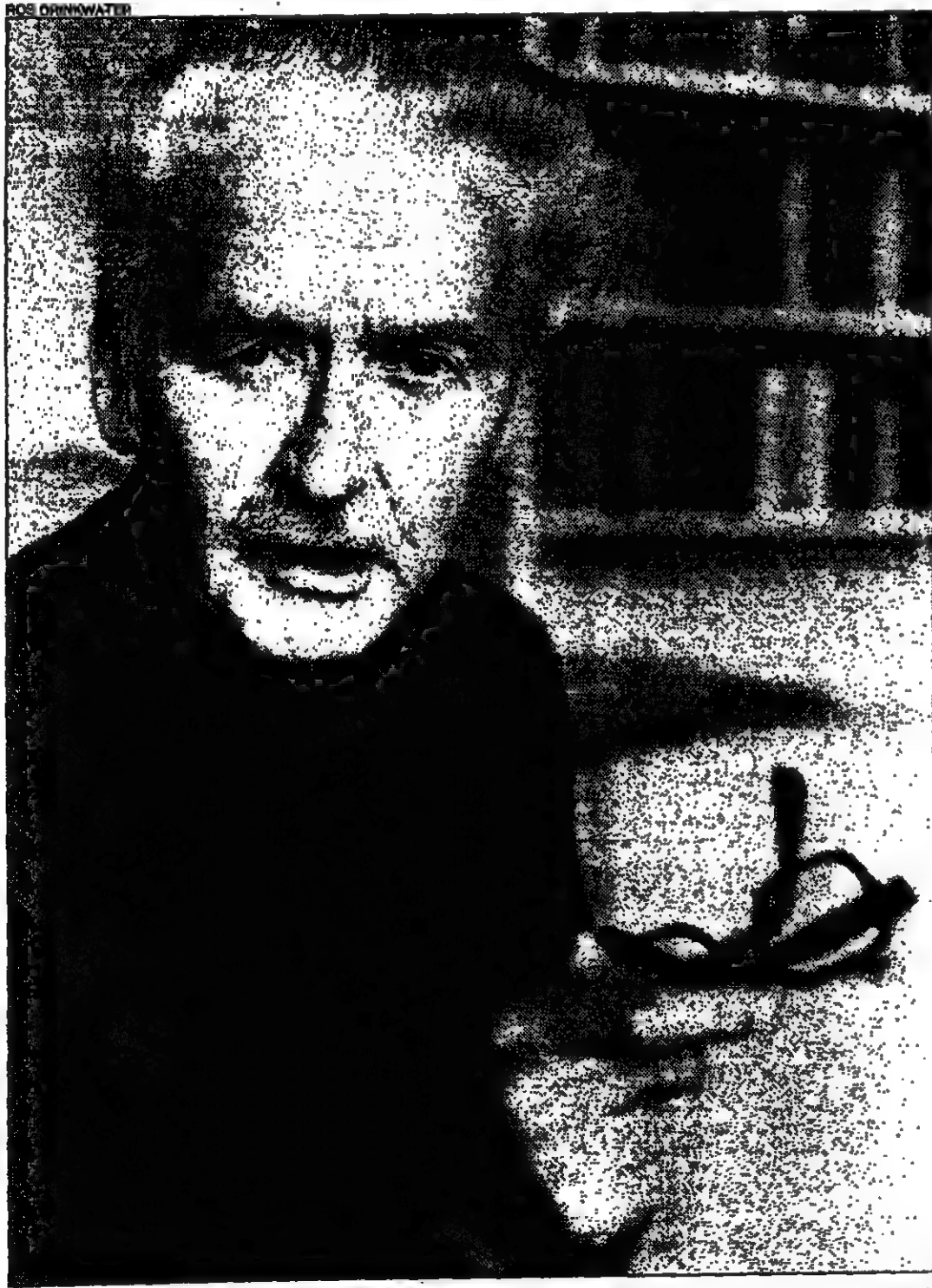
6. Once it was wood, now it is granite, and you can see its light 28km away.

7. Common English name for "cloth of Rheims" often associated with bishops.

8. Maiden name of a widowed governess who married her boss and was hated by St Simon.

Guru of grammar

Sir Randolph Quirk, the unseen force behind today's Kingman report on English teaching, explains to George Hill why he prefers the indirect path to good grammar



Professor Quirk believes that teachers should not regurgitate grammar for their pupils, but transmit it

Language is power, according to the arch-grammarian of our time. In that case the Kingman report on the teaching of English, published today, is concerned not only with Shakespeare, Milton and the possessive gerund, but with young people's access to most of life's opportunities.

"Language is power, and too much English teaching today is about correctness for fear of stunting a potential Shakespeare's liberty of self-expression. Baker knew his man, and turned to him at an early stage when considering how to set up the inquiry, to which all the hopes of a whole tribe of grammarians, grammarologists and grammarologists are now pinned. They hope to see Sir John Kingman's committee put grammar back into the classroom. Preliminary clues suggest that the committee has been

heavily influenced by Quirk's evidence. Before it was set up, Baker discussed its composition with him, and followed his advice closely. Sir Randolph in person does not give the impression of being a Great Cham, although the whole episode is a notable confirmation of his Chamship. He is deceptively tentative in his manner, and with his white moustache and large bifocals has the air of an academic hamster. But he knows what he wants to say, and as soon as he launches upon it, his hands begin to move commandingly and fluently in the non-verbal grammar of gesture, interrupted at strategic points by donnish wrappings with the technology of briar and matchbox.

"My own very strong hope of the committee is that they will be

saying there has got to be an improvement in the command of very precise skills in using English in speech and writing. I view with the greatest concern the way the educational establishment has turned away from correctness and the idea of a standard English, especially in relation to immigrants. It is just the same as the age-old argument about dialect. With the best and most charitable reasons, an educational ethos is developing here that it is wrong to tamper with the way a child

already talks. "But it is very much to the detriment of the rest of the population, and not to the advantage of the blacks if they are not given a command of standard English, which gives them a language of wider communication, and pulls them out of deprivation. Of course teaching should not disregard the language of the home or create a conflict between the two. But all children should be taught to take a pride in their use of language, as they are in France and Germany. Spelling, handwriting — these things have gone out of the window, my dear chap!"

He gazed in a pained way at the scrawl spreading across my notebook: I had come prepared to be on my toes about my subordinate clauses, but I had not expected to

have my handwriting brought into the issue as well. Hastily, I asked what practical implications all this had for the classroom. "It is not for me to dictate the means. I only assert the need for higher standards. Possibly graded achievement targets would be a help to teachers and pupils, though whether they should be age-linked, or more like existing tests for music and swimming, I'm not concerned to argue.

"But I also told the committee that I doubted whether the best way of achieving these goals was by introducing formal instructions in grammar into the classroom again. This is very difficult to get across. I happen to be very fond of grammar, but I would be astonished if my interest and technical knowledge helped me speak or write better in the least. It is taking a pride, and admitting good models, that improve performance in practice.

"If I believed that there was even a 50-50 chance that grammar lessons would improve performance, I'd say go ahead. My main doubt is my horror at what the classroom could become in consequence. Parsing and sentence analysis are quite difficult skills to acquire, but by golly, they're easy to teach, and to examine! No trouble finding performance indicators there! But I'm absolutely sceptical of their relationship to real proficiency.

"Of course, teachers need to be trained in grammar. But the measure of their success is how little they regurgitate the theory in the classroom. Instead, they must transmit it."

Today may prove a red-letter day for grammar, but a black day for pedants. If the Great Cham argued his case before Kingman with half the force he argued it to me, parsing is unlikely to be hauled from its resting-place in the graveyard of dead pedagogy, along with the slate-pencil, the rote and the dunce's cap.

'All children should be taught to take pride in use of language'

SATURDAY

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator At least £8,000 to be won

Irving Berlin at 100

He wrote his first song in 1907, and had his first hit in 1911. We look at the Russian who became an American institution



Plus... Jumbo Crossword with a £50 prize

CONSERVATION

Seabirds are particularly vulnerable to oil spills at sea. However, most research has been done on captive birds, which spend only limited time at sea. A new Canadian study of Leach's storm petrels — one of the world's most abundant true seabirds, which come to land only for breeding — shows clearly that adult petrels exposed to small doses of oil have reduced egg hatching success and young birds have a lower survival rate. The research, reported in *The Journal of Applied Ecology* (25:125-43) shows that the greater the oil exposure of breeding adults, the more was the reproductive failure. In some cases this was due to oiled adults temporarily abandoning their nesting burrows. But lightly oiled petrels generally recovered by the following breeding season, returning to their breeding colony burrows and regaining successful reproduction rates.

Malcolm Smith

FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

METEOROLOGY

How long is a day? It is a reasonable feature of the physical principle of the conservation of momentum that if the circulation of the global atmosphere speeds up or slows down then there will be a minute compensating change in the rate of the earth's rotation. Using atomic clocks, it has been possible to show that changes of a few milliseconds in the length of the day have correlated closely with changes in the overall motion of the atmosphere. These measurements have now been extended to show that periodic patterns over 40 to 50 days in tropical weather are detectable as variations in the length of the day. W.J. Burrows

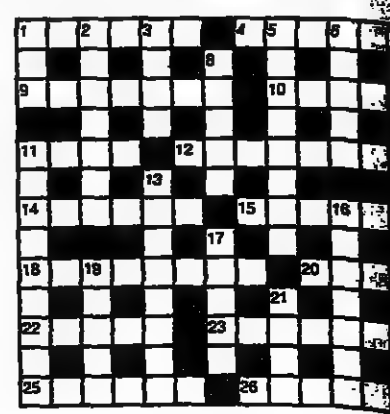
HISTORY

The 40th birthday celebrations of the Israeli state bring to mind the great diaspora of early modern history, the 500th anniversary of which comes up in three years' time. Jewish tradition claims that Ferdinand and Isabella's expulsion of the Jews from Spain ultimately ruined the country because it deprived Spaniards of their only financial exports at a time when the economy was unbalanced by an influx of gold and silver from the New World. But in the *May Past & Present*, Henry Kamen of Warwick University shows that the numbers of Jews expelled were much smaller than claimed; about 70,000 (170,000 claimed) and that the majority converted rather than fled. The real loss, apparently, had been from the already Christianized Jews who, with access to higher echelons of society, really had made money but still felt the force of the newly-formed Inquisition. John Crossland

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1552

ACROSS
1 Empty (6)
4 Sterile (6)
9 Royal Berkshire castle (7)
10 Father (5)
11 Jui-Long rivermouth port (4)
12 Precious family object (8)
14 Gossip (6)
15 But (6)
16 Pointlessness (8)
20 Male deer (4)
22 Angry (5)
23 Make better (7)
25 God's name (6)
26 Insist upon (6)

DOWN
1 Solemn pledge (3)
2 Comply with standards (7)
3 Monster lach (4)
5 Roughness of temper (8)
6 Related proportion (5)
7 Nazi trials site (9)
8 Excessive desire (5)
11 Fanciful, unrealistic (4-5)



SOLUTION TO NO 1551
ACROSS: 1 Impromptu 8 Endemic 9 Vital 10 Kilo 11 Spectrum 13 24 Bleep 14 Tally 16 Sobriety 18 Room 21 Ciri 22 Typoboot 23 Animals
DOWN: 1 Indulge 2 Pomp 3 Incapacitated 4 Advocate 5 Uter 6 Bo 7 Clammy 12 Optimism 13 Basics 15 Lookout 17 Baron 19 Mend 20 Ape

13 Target centre (5-3) 19 Rubbish (5)
16 Surprised (7) 21 Cutlery plating (1)
17 Sedate (5) 24 Take meal (3)

Regrettably, the amount of post received by MPs has increased horrendously in recent years. It is boosted by those with a clear commercial interest, namely lobbying organizations retained by glib commercial, charitable or single-issue groups. To most members, such missives are at best time-wasting, at worst totally counter-productive. One trick employed by these leeches is to telephone and ask for an interview in the interests of "research". They seek members willing to give half an hour of their time, free, in order to prepare a report on "parliamentary opinion" for their clients. Ex-members and members' wives seem to form a proportion of the interrogators.

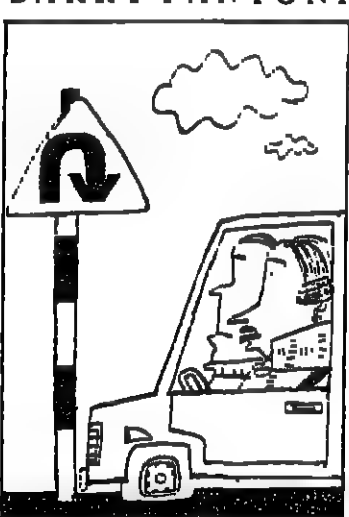
Busy colleagues can easily avoid such time-wasting ambushes by asking for 5 per cent of the fee to be charged to the client. The pestering soon stops as word spreads around these incestuous organizations, some of which are using offices, desks and telephones inside the Palace of Westminster provided by the taxpayer.

Equally expensive are the hordes of so-called "free" research assistants who seek self-evaluation by the number of parliamentary questions, amendments to Bills and early day motions and requests to ministers' offices which they concoct, and which cost the British taxpayer untold millions. Their presence in places like the members' canteen is now mercifully being restricted.

Why do the press consider it an embarrassment for the Government when the Prime Minister and her ministers listen to, and take note of, the concern of their backbenchers? Surely that is the latter doing their job and the former responding appropriately.

Hopes nurtured by the Government that their Lordships may emerge from the backwoods to vote down opposition to the Local Government Finance Bill may be dashed. The custodians of our castles and stately homes may balk at the prospect of overtly furthering their own financial interests: they will be paying just the same community charge as their gardeners in their semis.

BARRY FANTONI



Arguably the most pernicious side-effect of any recent legislation has been the proliferation, congestion, pollution and illegal parking of coaches in central London resulting from coach deregulation.

Described by the Metropolitan Police as "horrendous", the city is being choked to death by these tower-blocks on wheels, whose motorway driving was so graphically described as "intimidatory" by Lynda Chalker when she was transport minister. Civic-minded citizens might care to follow my example by reporting illegal driving by these anti-social invaders to the police.

Awaiting framing is a letter just received from the Met thanking me for my help in bringing two coach drivers to court, where they were each fined £40 for driving the wrong way down a narrow one-way street in residential SW1. Perhaps we need a coach vigilante patrol: what we certainly need is a very substantial increase in their licence fee - a mere £85 per annum for a 53-seater coach is an insult; or perhaps the opposite, namely a badge acknowledging the power of the road lobby inside the Department of Transport.

Surely the archetypal act of cowardice: sending an anonymous letter to one's MP accusing him of cowardice!

Somewhere in my Dorset constituency are two ladies entitled to an apology and an explanation. During the last election, while absent briefly attending the back-man, my wife Jane sought to explain my reservations about the community charge. Having previously heard me a few doors away explain what at the time seemed to be the policy, Jane told her inquisitors that "Robert has serious doubts about it, and the Government is awaiting the outcome of an experiment that is being carried out in Stockton".

On further inquiry, Jane, using her fertile imagination, explained that "this experiment is being conducted within the borough boundaries of Harold Macmillan's erstwhile constituency".

I hope my friends in the Scottish National Party will forgive her for mis-hearing me: let me hope that my two constituents - in Three Legged Cross if my memory serves me well - read this column, and come to terms with what must have seemed a somewhat eccentric explanation!

After ten months of bitterness and bickering, David Owen, David Steel, Robert MacLennan and their followers are facing the moment of truth. Next Thursday, for the first time since the disintegration of the Alliance and the formation of the two new groupings, the electorate will have the chance to pass judgement on their antics and on their relative strengths.

The Social and Liberal Democrats, comprising the former Liberal party and roughly half the old SDP, are fielding 2,500 candidates in local elections throughout the country and have 440 councillors defending seats.

Owen's SDP is putting up 350 candidates and has nine sitting councillors defending seats. Will they be annihilated, or will they secure just enough of the vote to enable them to live on as a credible fourth force?

However, it is the results from the 180-odd seats on a handful of councils around the country where the two centre parties are competing that the parties' leaders will watch most anxiously. Will the Democrat candidates slaughter their SDP opponents, thus strengthening the Democrat leaders' resolve to reject any deal with Owen at national level? Will the SDP candidates succeed in splitting the centre vote, thus putting pressure on the Democrat leaders to think again?

One town where the two are

Martin Fletcher on the Democrat-SDP election showdown

When centre fights centre

opposing each other is Gillingham in Kent, where the Democrats, from having no councillors in 1979, now need to acquire only two to have the 16 necessary to end 12 years of Tory control.

However, Leighton Andrews, Alliance parliamentary candidate in Gillingham last June and now a member of the Democrats' interim federal executive, is frank about priorities: "The SDP have to be strangled at birth. That is the task we have set ourselves in Gillingham for this year. If we were to end up at the next general election with another Alliance and David Owen under even less control than last time, our party would never make the breakthrough."

John Drossopoulos, SDP area secretary, accuses Andrews, a staunch former Liberal, of having deliberately sabotaged attempts by the two parties to reach a local agreement. He claims the SDP offered all along to let the Democrats have a free run where they had sitting councillors and in their stronger

wards. "... it is crazy for the two parties to fight each other and let the Tories in," he says.

He produces a wodge of correspondence with Andrews to support his claim. In one letter, referring to the only direct talks on the issue, in December, he accused Andrews and Councillor Bob Sayer, Democrat leader on the council, of attending the meeting with the sole purpose of wrecking it.

"Certainly your comment at 8.25pm, ten minutes into the meeting, that you wanted to be home by 9.00pm to watch *The Killing Fields* on television did not show a wish to negotiate, especially as you and Cllr Sayer had spent the best part of these ten minutes hurling insults upon us for being 'crypto-Tories', 'undemocratic' and the like."

Andrews insists that he entered negotiations in good faith, and that he was prepared to let the SDP fight certain wards, but that what the SDP really wanted was a new Alliance with written agreements on the division of seats. "We did not end the

Liberal Party to continue the Alliance," he says.

Sayer shares this view: "... the SDP have formed a new party but want the privileges extended to the old Alliance. I have not given up 26 years of Liberal membership and worked bloody hard through some pretty dire days for that," he says.

The SDP is opposing the Democrats in 11 Gillingham seats, including those of three sitting Democrat councillors and those where the Tories are most vulnerable. The air is thick with recrimination, and the local media is lapping up the insults hurled by one side at the other.

The latest SDP leaflet describes the Democrats as "the new party which was cobbled together in a panic after they had rejected the sincerely held views of their leaders (incidentally, who is their leader?)."

Mr Drossopoulos, rejecting the accusation that his SDP candidates are "spoilers", insists that more than 90 per cent of Medway's Social Democrats rejected merger with the Liberals,

that the SDP case has to be put, and that that they really intend intent merely on inflicting maximum damage on the Democrats and that sitting Democrat councillors may well be unseated. However, he acknowledges the Liberals' long supremacy in the town and ducks the question of whether the SDP can hope to win a single ward.

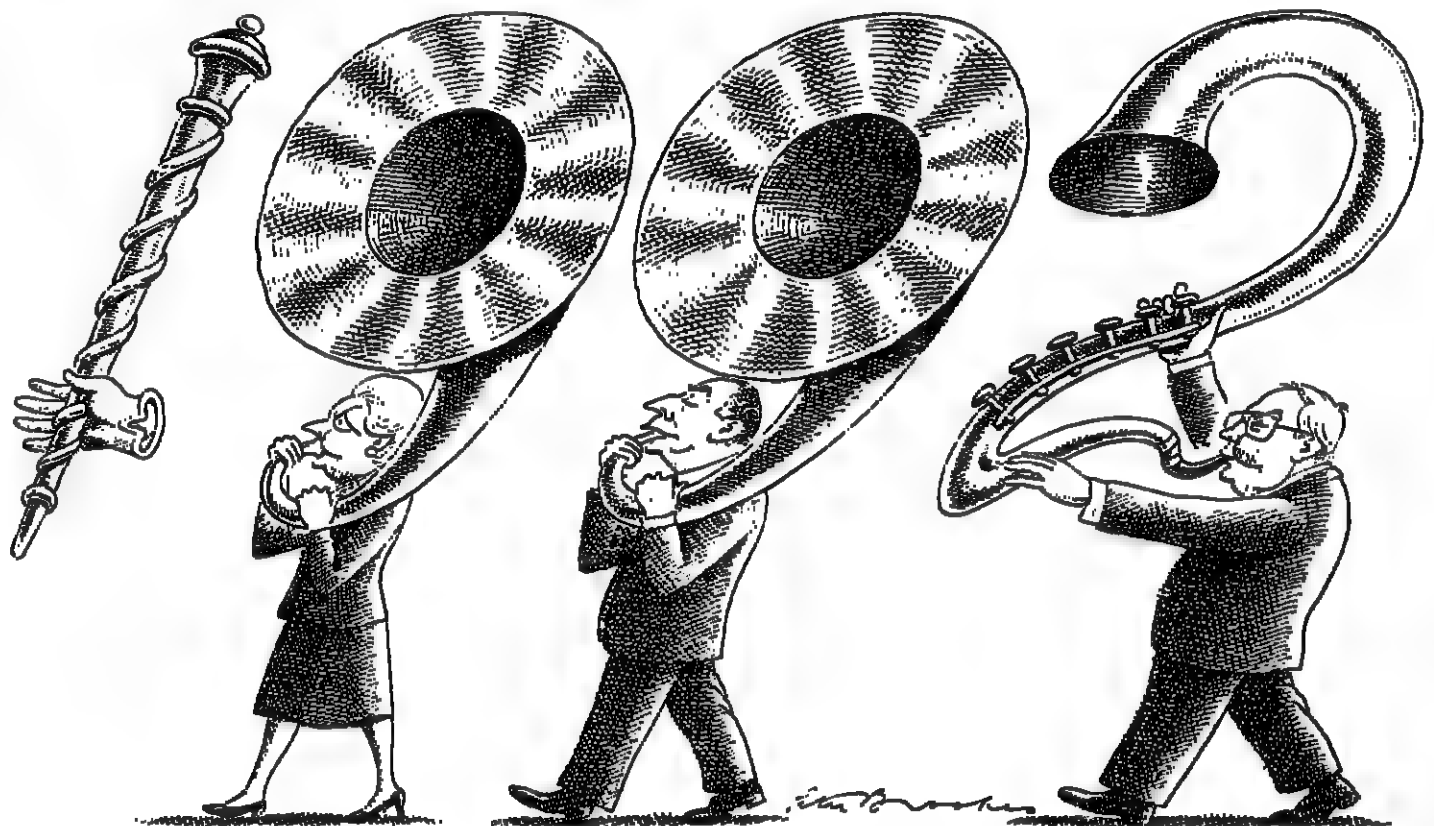
He says that, shorn of the mergers, the local party is much more highly motivated with a growing membership and much clearer message and distinct identity. The SDP will not go away. "We believe that in the long term it will be they who suffer. Time will work for the more dynamic of the two parties and that is us."

The only real winners in Gillingham, judging by the centre party squabbling, will be the Tories. Unless the SDP is strangled at birth, or unless a national agreement is reached, the same story will soon be repeated across the country. It is an issue that the Democrats' leadership will have to address.

Meanwhile, in Gillingham and elsewhere, the old Alliance faithful must be wondering at what they have thrown away.

Roy Jenkins

Who will lead Europe?



Britain will be ready for it. Lord Young continues to will the end without willing the means (expecting everyone else to vote for what Britain wants while exhorting Lord Cockfield, our senior commissioner for the internal market, for advocating equally what others want) but also mounts a vigorous publicity campaign to alert British business. In spite of this the awareness and enthusiasm for what may be in store seems to me to be barely a quarter of that prevalent among, for example, Milan-based companies.

British agnosticism, if based on an informed and sceptical view of the likelihood of getting 12 countries to agree on the multiplicity of necessary changes within a very few years, might have a certain foundation. It is too easily assumed that everything is over bar the shouting. But if, as is more typically the case, it is based on ignorance and indifference, it is much more dangerous.

The initial enthusiasm, generated in 1948, lasted the European Community for approximately 30 years. Towards the end of that period it was on a declining asset basis. But it was there. If I had to fix a date, I would say that it ran out nine years ago this spring. Two events then coincided. Jean Monnet died (at the age of 88) and the European Monetary System came into operation (very quick from conception, not much more than a year before, but delayed in delivery by a last minute French ploy).

One might be thought of as the closing of an account and the other as the opening up of a new horizon. In fact, they both symbolized the end of the third of a century of reaction to Western Europe's 1940-45 self-imolation. Monnet was a dogmatic but practical idealist. He rarely

raised the emotional stakes, but he had an absolute conviction that what he advocated was right and that those who thought otherwise just had not understood the issues. He was a supranational Mrs Thatcher without the stridency. He propounded the unity of Europe for political reasons but, the aborted European Defence Community apart, by economic means.

The EMS was directly in this tradition. I was much influenced in proposing it by Monnet's dictum that the best recipe for Europe was always to move forward along the axis of least resistance, provided that it led broadly in the right direction.

The idea aroused almost his last enthusiasm; and circumstances of its implementation provided a classic example of his optimistic faith that objective circumstances - in this case the 1978 collapse of the dollar and the peculiar damage to Europe of internal currency fluctuation - mostly come to the

aid of sensible propositions.

Yet the EMS was not the harbinger of a successful general advance in Europe. It was the last kick of the old view that if you gave Europe a political objective it would find an economic way of implementing it. When the EMS was put in place it was the last advance of substance to be made by Europe for more than a decade. No sooner was it achieved (with Britain abstaining) than the Community plunged into the tunnel of the British budgetary dispute which largely preoccupied it from 1979 to 1987. During this period there were changes of framework (the enlargement from nine to 12 members) and of machinery (the Single European Act), the one making decision-making still more difficult, the other compensating for this, but nothing of significant substance.

Meanwhile Europe had continued to slip further behind both America and Japan, so far

at least as the growth of combined GDP and the command over new technology are concerned. And it is this, perhaps appropriately in view of the highly materialist values of modern societies which has called Europe out of its slumber towards the goal of 1992.

In contrast with 30 or 40 years ago there is not much political idealism about it. There has not even been much reaction to the weak hand which Europe has played in recent global negotiations or to the effect which changing American orientation may have upon our future defence. To put it apophoristically it is the waste involved in the queues of lorries waiting at frontiers rather than the vision of a greater unity and influence which has recently stirred Europe. It is the dalek-like tones of Lord Cockfield's ordinances rather than the inspiring cadences of the Belgian statesman Paul-Henri Spaak which now provide the theme music.

Previously in Europe the politicians led reluctant businessmen and hesitant economies towards the promised land of a more integrated market. Now it is the other way round. Whether it can be achieved without effective political leadership, which has eluded Europe since the end of the Schmidt-Giscard partnership, I do not know. In recent years Chancellor Kohl has been too flat-footed, Mrs Thatcher too semi-detached, and President Mitterrand too hobbled by cohabitation. I cannot see either of the first two changing their characteristics. Maybe President Mitterrand will gain a new international authority on May 8. But he will still need a partner with whom to dance, for Europe cannot easily be led from a single capital.

Maybe leadership in the heroic sense is an out-of-date concept. Perhaps the dalek-like instructions if sufficiently clearly and repetitiously given, are all that is necessary. But I doubt it. I think Europe will need some good tunes as well as clear instructions if it is to get to 1992 on time.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Fifth column clique

The Shadow Cabinet decision to withdraw the whip from Ron Brown is a promising sign. It suggests that the Labour leadership is more confident about what it stands for, and what it will not tolerate. That will be welcomed by all its supporters.

But Brown, MP for Leith, is of no real consequence. He is an amiable enough man in private but is totally without influence in the Parliamentary Labour Party. It's a relatively easy matter to dispose of a loner who represents no organizational or ideological challenge to the Kinnockite hegemony.

There are others more difficult to deal with. As Bill Jordan, president of the engineering workers' union, lamented this week, the PLP contains "a significant band of adolescent revolutionaries". Juvenile might well be, but there is no denying that there exists a number of Labour MPs who have little in common with mainstream Labour politics and are out of sympathy with the leadership. They, too, are confident, indeed cocky enough, to advertise their disenchantment, flaunt their separatism, and openly challenge the leadership, not just in party elections but at almost every conceivable opportunity.

Benn and Heffer are the most conspicuous of the dissidents. The ideological gap between the "revolutionaries", largely but not exclusively represented in the Campaign Group, and the rest of the party is vast. Their allegiance is to Marxism rather

than to the values of Christian socialism, they prefer class warfare to co-operation, and seek confrontation rather than consensus. They are the ones who loudly proclaim their unequivocal support for the miners, the printers, and "all workers in struggle". The ideological divide between the pragmatic majority and the few zealots has always existed. It has become wider as the present leadership has belatedly sought to return the party to its founding principles and to its members, while the "adolescents" have become more adventurous.

Labour voters want nothing to do with the policies espoused by the hard left. When weak leadership allowed it to propel to the forefront of Labour politics proposals for the extension of state control, for Britain to go unilateralist and withdraw from Nato and the EEC, the party started losing elections and members. Indeed, none of their policies has ever been acceptable to the British public in general, particularly working people.

There is not a single council ward or one parliamentary constituency that would give them the time of day. But the "revolutionaries" know this, and they aren't silly. That is why obvious Trotskyites never stand as Trotskyite candidates. It is why none of those who espouse insurrectionist policies from the safety and comfort of the Commons benches, who flirt with Marxism, embrace dictatorial regimes abroad or smile on Sinn Fein,

would ever be so foolish as to subject themselves to the electorate on these particular issues.

They can get elected without all that hassle; all they need is a Labour ticket. Once that is tucked safely in their pocket they can devote most of their parliamentary time to their sectarian causes. The well-meaning might wonder if it matters. The Labour Party, after all, is a broad church. So it is, and that is its problem. Those who want it to be a broad church, who constantly assert the value of it being so, are precisely the ones who would not be given pew space in any properly run organization.

It matters because, as Bill Jordan said, they are "Maggie's Fifth Column", undermining all the work we do in the Labour Party". It matters because they repeatedly represent the leadership as crypto-SDP, potential betrayers of the movement, and make it appear weak and indecisive by constantly opposing its parliamentary strategy.

But what really matters is that these adolescents are, in effect, a separate entity within the Labour Party. They share a feeling, a set of values and a strong sense of common purpose that binds them closer to one another than to the rest of the party. That gives them the ability to be the tail wagging the dog of a potential Labour government.

Suspensions that the sunspot cycle may affect the weather may be bolstered by satellite measurements of changes in the Sun's energy output since 1980. But the difference in the energy output between the maximum and minimum of the sunspot cycle is only one-thirtieth of 1 per cent, hardly enough to cause obvious climatic changes.

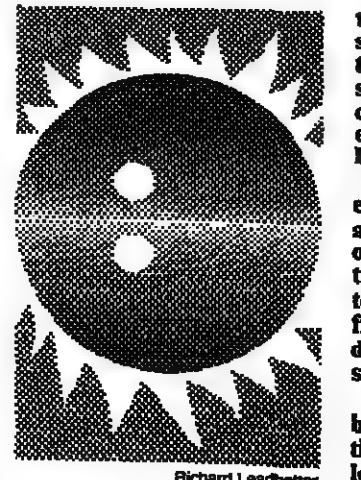
The new measurements have been made with instruments mounted on the Earth satellite known as the Solar Maximum Mission (SMM) and are reported in this week's *Nature* by Richard C. Willson, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and H.S. Hudson at the University of California, San Diego.

The SMM satellite is one of the first to have been equipped with instruments for measuring the total energy output of the Sun, from infra-red to ultraviolet. It has provided continuous measurements since February 1980, a few months before the most recent maximum of the solar sunspot cycle in November of that year.

The most striking feature of the new data is that the energy output is greatest at the peak of the sunspot cycle. It might have been expected that energy output would be lowest when the Sun's surface is covered by sunspots (which are relatively dark).

SCIENCE REPORT

Spot check



Richard Leadbetter

The explanation is that the sunspots appear to be accompanied by bright patches (called "faculae"), the extra radiation of which is greater than that of the sunspots. The presence of both sunspots and faculae is now measured by ground-based telescopes, the faculae by means of records of characteristic signs of calcium in the visible solar spectrum.

In support of their belief that even the small variations of solar energy output may influence the Earth's climate, the authors remark that the "Little Ice Age" spanning the 16th and 17th centuries coincided with a period when sunspots were virtually absent for several decades. But that argument does not imply that

there is a link between sunspots and climate, only that the prolonged absence of sunspots during several sunspot cycles may have a cumulative effect on the climate of the Earth.

Willson and Hudson also explain how they have been able to represent the changes of the Sun's energy output in the simplest of mathematical terms as a cyclic phenomenon, from which they infer that the duration of the present sunspot cycle may be 10.8 years.

But solar physicists will not be surprised if experience in the next few years shows the length of the present cycle to be different from that: past records show that the approach to a sunspot maximum is usually more rapid than its decline.

Although the new data are more precise than any previously made available, it is plain that the authors have had some difficulty in making sense of the measurements recorded by their satellite instruments. One problem has been of arranging that the SMM satellite keeps a constant orientation relative to the Sun. Another has been that of making sure that the three independent sets of instruments with which the satellite is equipped accurately monitor each other's performance.

JOHN MADDOX



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OFF COURSE

The Government is looking as though it has lost its way. A fog of concessions has been allowed to fall upon what had already become a dark and confusing forest of local government and social security reform. There may not be anything wrong in the individual changes it has made to its proposals. There is everything wrong in the way that those changes have been forced upon it.

The Conservatives began the journey into their third term with an important strand of radicalism in their programme — one which heartened all whose aims for Conservatism included a progressively smaller role for the State. Put at its simplest (which it rarely was) it stated that when changes were being made to the tax or benefits system, the effects should be felt not fudged.

The modern tax collector has been brought up to be like the modern dentist, carrying out his extractions with the minimum possible pain. PAYE and VAT are his tools. If the patient feels not a thing, then so much the better. The community charge, on the other hand, was designed to hurt. It was intended to make all its payers aware how their money was being spent — and thus encourage them to vote for those who would spend less.

So too with the benefits system. The training of the DHSS functionary has been in minimizing the pain of transition. The original aim of the new proposals was that there should be clear losers. The total amount paid out was to be cut. Cash was no longer to go in such great quantities to groups who were judged not to need it.

These were laudable aims. The painstaking practitioners of public finance tend to believe in a big role for the State; those more sparing with the anaesthetic prefer a larger role for individual freedom. In that respect, as well as others, the social security and local government reforms could be warmly welcomed.

But later, and with gathering ungainly pace in recent days, this central reforming idea seems to have been lost. The development of the community charge — the exemptions and in particular its "capping" by Whitehall — has

resulted in a less clear link between taxing and spending. Those with £8,000 in savings may now receive housing benefit — a weakening of the principle that those with substantial assets should not benefit from the taxes paid by those with no assets at all. The average tax payer contributes £40 every week to social security benefits — a figure which dramatizes the success of the quiet extractors more than any words can do.

The decision to apply "transitional protection" may be judged right by certain traditional standards of social security reform. But it would seem to blunt the principle of addressing the "dependency culture", as Mr John Moore once dared to put it. It also carries an unmistakable whiff of old-fashioned "inflation culture" as administrators wait for increases in the retail price index to ease the transfer from one benefit level to another.

The Government did not, of course, make these and other concessions because it suddenly realized the error of its ways. It did so in response to what are loosely known as political pressures — letters to MPs, tales of rough justice, all instances of the very attitudes which it had wished to deal with by introducing the reforms in the first place.

If the Government did not realize that the social security reforms would cause pain, then its strategy was not the radical one we thought it was. If it felt that it had simply miscalculated the amount of pain, then it should have given itself time to take proper stock before being forced into daily appeasement of its opponents.

For every new hard case on Mr Robin Cook's clipboard, there was an equally hard case under the old system. There are thousands of cases where people will gain from the new rules, not merely the hypothetical people produced in ministerial speeches but people just as real as those corresponding with Mr Cook. Tory MPs would have been better advised to find some of them instead of contributing to the further blunting of much-needed reform.

PLANNING FOR NATO

Nato has reached a key point in its history. By withdrawing intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe, the INF treaty has removed some of the concerns which dominated defence thinking over the last decade — only to put new ones in their place. Given that governments are now grappling with fresh issues, this week's meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG) was a modest success.

Behind the careful wording of the communiqué, the alliance has edged towards a decision on the modernization of its short-range nuclear weapons. The need to update Lance in the 1990s and to develop a new air-launched missile would have existed without the INF treaty. What the treaty has done, by removing the longer-range weapons, is to give the requirement to update the shorter ones higher priority.

The meeting took place against a background of dispute. The West Germans remain suspicious of "modernization", while the new Danish anti-nuclear policy led to the meeting being switched from Denmark itself to Brussels. It took a sharp US intelligence briefing to convince some doubting allies that the Soviet Union has its own nuclear updating programme.

But the alliance faces its more immediate difficulties over the modernization of conventional forces. Recent Soviet proposals for a two-year moratorium on defence spending find a receptive audience as military budgets shrink and the complexity and cost of equipment continues to grow. Nato must treat this peace initiative too with caution.

As alliance leaders stressed at their recent summit, the continuing East-West imbalance in conventional forces remains at the core of all their security concerns. This imbalance will weigh all the more heavily as a result of the INF treaty. With falling manpower resources in most countries, it is unlikely to be easily redressed.

Nato's answer is to bank on the Western lead

in modern technology. In order to pull together the differing national modernization programmes and to align them with the requirements of its military commanders, the alliance has launched a Conventional Defence Improvements (CDI) initiative, which aims to produce a range of new equipment.

It is well illustrated by the plan for Europe's central region called Follow-on Forces Attack (FOFA). Nato's defences are at risk of being quickly destroyed in wartime by an aggressor, who, given the advantage of surprise, could concentrate considerably greater forces at critical points. The alliance would then have no reserves available to deal with an enemy's second echelon troops — driving through the gap.

At present, Nato commanders would have to ask to use nuclear weapons to resist them. Their plan is, therefore, to produce a range of conventional weapons instead, which could reach deeply into enemy territory, destroying airfields, roads, railways and communication centres, as well as troop concentrations.

The technology already exists. The problem is to adapt it, make it able to be operated by different allied forces in the central region — and to produce it. This is going to be extremely expensive.

This is why the pact's proposals for first limiting, then reducing, defence spending sound attractive. But it is why they need to be disregarded and why Nato gave only a guarded welcome to the recent call by the pact's foreign ministers for further reductions in conventional as well as nuclear arms.

While the Soviet Union keeps half of all its active division in Europe between the Atlantic and the Urals, the Western Alliance cannot rely on statements of good intent for its security. If updated nuclear missiles or high technology systems can help to redress the balance, then they must be provided. For its part, the NPG has taken a step in the right direction.

BACK TO NOWA HUTA

The strike at Poland's biggest steelworks at Nowa Huta near Cracow has now become the country's most serious industrial dispute since the unrest of 1980-81. The conflict, which began over compensation for price rises introduced at the beginning of this month, now threatens not only the Polish leadership's incipient economic reform programme, but also the uneasy contract which was gradually coming into being between the regime and the people after the lifting of martial law.

In part, the steelworkers' strike reflects the insensitive handling by the Polish authorities of a difficult situation. Last year, the people of Poland rejected, at a referendum, a package of economic reforms which would have involved large price rises. The alternative was slower reform and more gradual price rises — but price rises none the less.

The authorities pledged that no one would lose as a result. In the event, they offered a flat rate pay increase which went nowhere near compensating for the new prices, and the fragile worker-state contract was undermined. In the past three weeks, strikes by other workers in other cities have been bought off by envoys from Warsaw bringing more money. But Nowa Huta is different, and not only because of its size.

Built in the 1950s, it was designed to be a model for the new industrialized Poland and a symbol of its future prosperity under Soviet-style socialism. Its siting, adjacent to the ancient university city of Cracow, and the absence of any church within its environs, were a calculated challenge to Poland's cultural tradition. It was a challenge to which the steelworkers rose. As the independent trade

union Solidarity gained momentum nine years ago, Nowa Huta was second only to the shipyards of Gdansk in supporting it.

For all these reasons, any dispute at Nowa Huta takes on national significance. Already, the steelworkers are demanding pay rises not just for themselves but for Poland's badly paid medical staff. Ominously for the authorities, they are also recognizing the leadership of Solidarity and calling for the reinstatement of Solidarity activists.

Six months ago, Poland's communist authorities must have hoped that Solidarity was a spent force. Its strength was being dissipated among divergent political groups. Some of its leaders had renounced their anti-government activities; others had joined the reform effort; others were working in the underground opposition. Now, Solidarity has raised its head in the very arena in which it is strongest.

How Mr Jaruzelski and his colleagues tackle the strike at Nowa Huta will be a test of their determination to pursue economic reform and of their ability to take Poland's workers with them. The West may seem less interested in Poland now than it was in the Solidarity era, but that interest will quickly revive.

Discontent in Poland is a subject President Reagan could well choose to raise at the coming summit in Moscow. Mr Gorbachev, for his part, has indicated that he will distance Moscow from the countries of Eastern Europe, but only so long as the authorities there are capable either of containing unrest or of managing an efficient economy. Mr Jaruzelski and his colleagues are in danger of showing their inability to do either.

Benefits under the Housing Bill

From the Minister of State for Housing and Planning
Sir, The trouble with politicking on the basis of half-understood leaked documents is that those who do it are sometimes given more credibility than they deserve.

Readers should not be misled by Mr Raynsford (April 25) of Raynsford & Morris, "housing and parliamentary consultants". Mr Raynsford is the former Labour member for Fulham who lost his seat at the last election.

Contrary to what he says, there is no doubt about the Government's collective commitment to meet the housing benefit consequences of the Housing Bill. The position remains as the Secretary of State for the Environment described it at second reading:

In the private sector, rents will move towards market levels. Any Government support will focus on tenants, rather than on property, through the housing benefit system. Honourable members may be assured that housing benefit will be available for all those whose incomes are low enough to qualify for full or partial benefit.

John Moore's announcement on Wednesday underlines our commitment to protect the position of those who need help with their housing costs.

Nick Raynsford can only discredit the Housing Bill by

questioning the Government's good faith. Since we will not break our word he pays a backhanded compliment to the Bill; that, at least, I welcome.

Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE,

Department of the Environment,

2 Marsham Street, SW1.

April 28.

From Mr M. W. R. Corp

Sir, Like Mr Nick Raynsford we

are concerned at the effect of the

interaction between the proposed

Housing Bill and housing benefit

provisions which are gradually

being tightened. Our special inter-

est is the effect on older people

Many of our 23,000 tenants are

worse off as a result of the March

changes, even though over 60 per

cent of the sheltered housing we

provide is in inner-city or desig-

nated stress areas.

In future we will increasingly

have to charge higher "economic"

rents. We fear that an increasing

under-class or twilight group of

older people will be created who

are neither financially dependent

enough to fall squarely into the

support mechanisms nor finan-

cially independent enough to pur-

chase housing and services on the

open market.

Tapers and capital cut-offs are

very crude mechanisms and pro-

vide only limited smoothing be-

tween full support and total

withdrawal of support.

All housing-condition surveys

have agreed on one thing — that

older people are the biggest single

group of occupiers of the worst

housing in this community. It

would hate to see the current

changes in housing law and ben-

efits increasing this sad trend.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL CORP

(Group Director)

Anchor Housing Trust,

Queens House,

13/15 Magdalen Street,

Oxford.

April 27.

Sale of treasures

From Mr Alan Leung

Sir, Is nothing sacred to the

Church of England any longer?

Last Friday St Mary's Church,

Elham, sold at Christie's an

"Adoration of the Magi" attrib-

uted to the circle of Giotto and

Romanino (report, April 25). The

frame of this bears a prominent

label stating that the painting was

given to the church as memorial to

Flying Officer Charles Lindsay

Hayman, who fell near Beaupre

in 1917.

It is regrettable but under-

standable that churches some-

times feel compelled to sell

paintings that they think they

cannot afford to insure (though

insurance for anything but dam-

age is not strictly necessary) or

maintain, when these are simply

gifts or bequests. A picture that

was presented as a memorial —

particularly to one who died for

his country — is surely something

different. It is not only an ugly

act in itself; it leaves the way open

for subsequent disposal of church

furnishings, communion plate,

and even stained glass windows,

similarly presented as memorials.

There is an argument for saying

that a painting placed in a church

and labelled in this way has the

status of a funerary monument,

in which, I believe, some legal

right of property continues to reside

in the family of the deceased. I do

not know if any effort was made

to ascertain his wishes — if there

is such — in this case; but I would

suggest that a more appropriate

action than putting the painting

up for auction would have been to

return it to the family, for it to

be placed in another church with

respect of the memory of the dead.

Failing this, it should have been

given to a museum, where it could

at least have been stipulated that

the memorial label should remain

attached to it, which is scarcely

likely to be the case when it passes

into the hands of the trade or a

private collector.

Yours faithfully,

ALASTAIR LAING,

24 Aberdeen Road, NS.

Sight to forget

From Mr John Mein

Sir, Mr Henry Wells, who lives in

bosky Wiltshire, calls (April 19)

for the preservation of any exist-

ing wartime buildings and struc-

tures.

I live in London, which still

possesses the ugliest extant exam-

ple of wartime architecture, and

right in the heart of our beautiful

city surrounded by the wonders

of Inigo Jones, Wren and Nash.

You cannot miss it; even HM

the Queen sees it from the balcony

of her London home, as do her

most senior ministers, the Prime

Minister and Foreign Secretary,

from their residences. The Queen

Mother sees it from Clarence

House, and the First Sea Lord gets

an eyeful of it from his state

apartments.

There it squats, a monstrous

black-black carbuncle, on the

very edge of Horse Guards, origi-

nally built to protect the subter-

anean wartime offices of Churchill.

You cannot miss this gigantic

memorial to Hitler, only 200 yards

from our own national war me-

morial, the Cenotaph. Only the

true lovers in St James's Park fail

to notice it.

Let us make 1989 the year when

we demolish this grotesque eye-

socket. Build a pleasant piazza in its

place, with lots of marble, foun-

tains, flowers and a statue of

Winston Churchill, who saved our

island race these many years ago.

Yours faithfully,

PETER FARRAR,

33 Swanland Road,

North Humberside.

April 24

Prospect of alternative to poll tax

From the General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation
Sir, Whilst politics in a democracy will always produce exceptions, it has long been my view that Britain is best served when the nature of a tax (the tax base, in the jargon of the trade) is broadly agreed across parties. For example, no party argues in principle against the taxation of "income" — debate is about the scale of such taxation.

Looking back, the exceptions have usually not lasted for long: often they do not survive a change of government. When they do, it is because they come to be seen as having a logic, as having equity and efficiency.

The poll tax is an astonishing example of an "exception" which by definition has none of these virtues. It is inconceivable that it will survive any change of government — indeed, popular opinion against it may not permit its survival at all. There has to be an obligation upon the two Houses to provide responsibly for the future.

The current ludicrous and damaging situation exists as much as anything because the present rating system has grown tarnished with neglect, whilst the good advice of the Layfield committee 12 years ago has been consistently ignored.

Layfield (who did not even see a poll tax as worthy of a line of attention) saw no alternative to continuing the taxation of land and property (as in so many Western countries) but a different basis (that of capital values) and supplemented by a local income tax (LIT).

So far the British people have not had any real opportunity of judging whether such an approach would be more acceptable. Yet probably it would be, if, for example, the LIT was paid only by those who did not pay rates, thus providing both a remedy for a major flaw in the present system and lowering the rate poundage. There could be a number of permutations on the theme of a supplementary LIT including, if desired, using a low or low LIT liability as a measure for rate relief.

However, no one is in a position

Insecure tenure

From Mr Richard Clogg
Sir, The Lord Chancellor is quoted (report, April 20) as saying in the House of Lords debate on the education Bill that the Govern-

ment has not closed its "ears and minds" on the issue of academic tenure. I find this hard to believe. Some months ago I was being considered for a very senior position in an American university. Through my MP I wrote to the Secretary of State for Education to ask whether he was happy to have created at a stroke a powerful additional incentive to join the brain drain. For whereas American universities can offer vastly superior salaries and facilities, coupled with tenure, as a consequence of Mr Baker's Bill all that British universities can offer by way of a counter-inducement is a modest (in my case marginal) increase in salary coupled with loss of tenure.

Despite a further attempt by my MP, I have still received only a form letter sent in response to representations about tenure, irrespective of their content. Why are Messrs Baker and Jackson so anxious to add a British stick to the American carrot? Yours sincerely, RICHARD CLOGG, King's College London, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Strand, WC2.

PM and midwives

From the General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives
Sir, The Prime Minister is quoted (report, April 23) as saying that the Government and the Royal College of Nursing alone were responsible for drawing up a new clinical grading structure. Not so!

Midwives throughout the country will be further exasperated by the Prime Minister's statement that nurses were given a pay review body because the Royal College of Nursing had never gone on strike. There are other non-striking NHS unions, besides the RCN.

The clinical grading structure developed from the Nursing and Midwifery Staffs Negotiating Council, following considerable joint fieldwork. It was not, as the Prime Minister suggests, exclusively the brainchild of one of the staff-side organisations and the department.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Darling dodos

The *jeunesse dorée* of my generation has had it both ways, finding fame and fortune, and indeed power, as young rebels and keeping it in established middle age. As a prelude to their 68/88 season, Channel Four showed us again *World in Action's* celebrated 1967 interview with one of the most dogged perennials of the Sixties bloom of youth.

The pointedly titled *Mick Jagger - Off the Hook* was filmed on the day that his prison sentence for drug offences had been quashed. He had been flown by helicopter to face a bizarre panel of establishment moral leaders: William Rees-Mogg, then editor of *The Times*, former Home Secretary Lord Stowell, the then Bishop of Woolwich and the Jesuit priest, Father Corbishley.

Rees-Mogg had bravely, even poetically, defended Jagger as a leader with his famous question, "what breaks a butterfly on a wheel?" What was striking about the film was how the panel regarded Jagger as though he were a butterfly, their mildly patronizing puzzlement repeatedly replaced by a look of child-like wonder at the ornate creature before them.

Jagger himself was most un-Jagger-like. When I interviewed him two years after this film, he turned, the moment the tape was switched on, into the stage Mick, mumbling his way incoherently down the class scale - and straight with one of my questions into Pseudo's Corner. But in the film he was still the LSE student, passably articulate, with no more than a slight London accent.

He may have offered platitudes but so did the panel. The whole exercise seemed intellectually not a great clash of two cultures, but more a benign sixth form debate about freedom and society.

In *My African Farm* (BBC2) for 40 Minutes, Molly Dinan went on another of her cinematic safaris in Kenya in search of comically colonialist, if not mischievous, whites. Sylvia Richardson was a splendid old dragon, who did not hold her fire, but was revealed as kinder than she seemed.

And her robustly female companion gave as good as she got: "You would have probably killed them if you had them," she said, of Sylvia's recollections of her mis-carried quads.

Andrew Hislop

Nicholas Hytner's production of Sir Michael Tippett's *The Knot Garden* opens tonight at Covent Garden, conducted by Siân Edwards. Jill Gomez here recalls her controversial role in the 1970 premiere of the work

Topless for Tippett

If for nothing else, my creation of the role of Flora in Michael Tippett's *The Knot Garden* at Covent Garden in 1970 has gone down in history as the first time that a principal singer went topless on the stage of the Royal Opera House. The whole opera, conducted by Colin Davis and produced by Peter Hall, attracted unprecedented publicity.

In part it was its very modernity which was newsworthy. There was a full-page feature in the *Daily Express*: "Grand Opera - off the peg". The London stores where the clothes had been bought all got their credits. I was later given the Laura Ashley bath-robe and Biba bikini, which finally fell apart of its own accord two years ago in Tuscany.

Tippett's two previous operas, *The Midsummer Marriage* and *King Priam*, evoked mythological and historical story-lines. The new opera's plot was up to date. In the Elizabethan garden of Faber, a wealthy engineer (played by Raimund Herincx) and his wife, Thea (Yvonne Minton), the psychoanalyst Manguis organizes therapeutic games for the hosts and house guests, casting himself in the role of Prospero.

The somewhat improbable guests include Thea's sister Denise, a freedom-fighter disfigured by torture, and the homosexual couple of Met, a Negro writer, and Dov, a white musician. Flora, the teenage ward of Faber and Thea, is the sexual catalyst who excites some fairly bizarre behaviour in the other characters.

The invitation to sing in *The Knot Garden* came out of the blue. I had had a rapid rise through Glyndebourne and was with Scottish Opera doing Henze's *Elegy for Young Lovers* and *The Magic Flute*. Peter Hemmings, (then head of Scottish Opera) came and said: "Feel like learning a new opera by Michael Tippett?" Elizabeth Harewood had had to drop out, due to pregnancy, and I impetuously agreed.

I think I was more excited by what I had to do dramatically than what I had to sing. Of course there are great moments, like the big blues number at the end of the first act - it gave you the same kind of feeling as being part of a Verdi ensemble - there was the coloratura to pip out, and the famous Schubert song from *Die schöne Müllerin*, but otherwise the vocal line was wickedly angular and intimidating.

Peter Hall, whom I had first met when I did *Calisto* with him at Glyndebourne, wanted everything played as realistically as possible. This was taken to extremes.

Yvonne Minton had to stagger in carrying a tray which was set with full bottles, glasses, and a massive cut-glass whisky decanter - all this while negotiating the slatted floor and a formidably difficult vocal line.

There was also the "real rose-picking" episode, when Flora wanders along the rose-hedge encircling the stage. During her coloratura flights she picks a rose, so that



Eighteen years on: Jill Gomez (above left) today and (above right) in the Biba bikini, pictured with Robert Tear at the time of the premiere

she can strip its petals to the nursery-rhyme words, "Eeny, meeny, miney, mo".

My humming and trilling were interrupted by a banshee-like scream as my fingers closed on the vicious thorns of an all-too-real rose deliberately set among the plastic blooms. When I remonstrated with Peter about this, he retorted that the rose had to be real so that my reaction to the pain of plucking should be totally convincing. In the end a special false rose was substituted for the impossibly prickly real one.

Timothy O'Brien's shimmering, brilliant stage-setting also held its perils, and these were less easy to avoid. In the slatted wooden floor were two concentric circular tracks, allowing curtains of aluminium rods to pass and repass - a kinetic representation of an Elizabethan maze.

The frantic scene changes required us to slip through the gaps between the two rod-curtains while avoiding being trapped between them or, worst of all, falling down or getting a foot stuck in the deep tracks cut in the floor.

I had been thrown out from the wings, turning and twisting towards the labyrinth. While running the hazard of the scything rods, I had also to catch a gigantic bouquet of flowers vigorously tossed in by the stage manager. Lunging for the bouquet, I missed my footing and fell into one of the tracks. The rods ground to a halt and I recall someone summoning me back to consciousness with an agreeably real double-brandy.

One of the most fascinating things about *The Knot Garden* was that cinematic techniques, such as cutting and dissolving between short scenes, had been built in by Tippett (a great movie fan) and we had to make these work in front of a live audience.

Although not exactly experiencing it at first hand, Peter Hall also revelled in the terrors of the staging. He kept saying, "We must always keep the element of danger - the singers must never be allowed to feel secure." Our experience of *The Knot Garden* was an apotheosis of this principle.

The topless episode came about in the context of Manguis, the psychoanalyst, requiring the characters to enact their fantasies in the guise of scenes from *The Tempest*. These characters were supposed to exorcise our various demons, in Flora's case a fantasy of being raped.

The prescribed model was Caliban's attempted rape of Miranda, with the ampie Tom Carey playing the part of Caliban. We all sat around thinking how to play the scene. Peter wondered what would be so shocking that every right-thinking male in the audience would want to stand up and kill the black man who could do whatever he was going to do to that young white girl.

Having listened to everyone else's ideas, I said, "Well, it's obvious, isn't it? Flora's lying there in a bikini, hoping to get a suntan. Why not have Mel creep up, leap on me and rip off the top?"

Everyone fell about laughing except Peter, who said, "That's absolutely brilliant, that's

it. I'd never thought of you wearing a bikini, but that has to be right. Mel pulls off the top, leaving you bare and defenceless. You and Tazenna (Firth, the costume designer) must go off and find a bikini at once."

Tom Carey was so horrified about what he had to do that he fudged the scene at rehearsals and only got my top off properly on the first night, when it came away with a gratifying loud rip of Velcro.

I was meant to count to six before I ran off, but got no further than four before I upped and ran. While lying there I'd heard the unmistakable sound of coins going into the slots for the opera glasses. I later learned, to time my departure for the precise moment when the glasses were being levelled at the stage.

Most of the opera, and above all the second act, worked very well, but I was never totally happy about the third act. The emotional impact seemed to fizzle out; such new pairings that emerged, like that of Denise with Mel, were less than convincing.

Unfortunately, I missed David Freeman's severe, white-box staging of *The Knot Garden*, where I'm told that the sexual tensions were, pace Peter Hall, much more credibly put across. I'm looking forward, from the safety of a seat in the audience, to reliving this great opera of our time in a wholly new interpretation.

Jill Gomez gives a recital, Songs for the Night, at Wigmore Hall on April 30. She sings *Donna Anna* in *Ken Opera's* production of *Don Giovanni*, touring from May 19.



CONCERT

Slightly unsubtle

Philharmonia/Davis Festival Hall

The South Bank's amorphous "End Games" series changed to two late works in this concert of music by Richard Strauss. One was the Four Last Songs, four utterances beyond reasonably doubt. The other was the symphonic fragment arranged by the conductor Clemens Krauss in 1952, three years after Strauss' death, from the mythological comedy *Die Liebe der Danae*, completed in 1940. An "After Casanova".

Whatever it came across as, perfectly workable concert, it was its initial dramatic focus (portraying Jupiter storming away from his rival suitor, Minos, palace) soon giving way to more noble, luxuriant and, most of all, relaxed. It included some lovely orchestral effects, all Strauss's own - there were, for instance, gentle heart cascades, magically glistening through the texture at one point - while Andrew Davis, the newly-named chief conductor of the BBCSO, controlled the pace of the work impressively.

The very ending was particularly sustained, as was the case in the four last songs. Poised though this work was throughout, it found the soprano, Alison Hargoni, strangely tense form, even if with an evident will to do the music as possible interpretative justice.

Elsewhere in the concert, Davis was liable to resort to bombast where subtlety would have been more in order. That was most evident in the anonymously arranged Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*, whose waltz section strayed dangerously near vulgarly.

Such a score is surely too rich to need milking for everything it is worth. Details here tended to become fuzzy at the edges, despite some excellent contributions from John Anderson's oboe, and from the Philharmonia Orchestra's brass section.

Similarly, Till Eulenspiegel's lustige Streiche might have had a more mischievous sparkle if Davis had refrained from exercising a touch of heavy-handedness. The work was given a secure performance, nevertheless, and its inclusion here was easily justifiable on the grounds that, though not Strauss's end game, it certainly represents Till Eulenspiegel's.

Stephen Pettitt

Comic economy lesson

Teechers

Arts

John Godber's latest snappy, albeit scrappy, touring success comes into the theatre where his *Bouncers* played to capacity audiences for a large chunk of last year and much of the year before.

Acting on the principle that the less you muck around with a winning formula the better the prospect, he again writes for a

small cast who play a multitude of characters. But since his subject this time is education he introduces (how could he honourably avoid it?) a more serious note than was required for his portrait of Saturday nights at the disco.

The bulk of the show is presented as an end of term play, put on by three school leavers whose first year has been given meaning by an enthusiastic drama teacher.

They loaf onto the stage, two knowing girls and a gum-chewing

boy, and after giving us a tart picture of life at their actual school embark on a thinly-disguised version of it, as seen from the eyes of a drama teacher.

Godber works best when he cuts quickly between scenes and provides frequent changes of character. When he gives an actor one character to stay with throughout the evening the result can be dire, as in *Fatting On The Ritz*.

But here his talented and versatile trio have half a dozen parts apiece to hop between. Paul Rider shifts from lofty gormlessness to honest-eyed idealism, and then to the casual charm of an adolescent Charles Aznavour.

Shirley-Anne Selby, a young giantess who can look down at the top of his head without raising her ankles, becomes brat, bully, and *Mikado*-mad headmistress, heartily proud of producing an all-male version of *The Trojan Women*.

With the help of pint-sized Gillian Tompkins (coward teacher of Humanities, PE sexpot) they nip through the school year, taking in class warfare, teacher tantrums, sex and the shortcomings of the State system.

Lifting the desk lids on the classroom set, which is puzzlingly backed by fragments of a gigantic willow-pattern plate (perhaps to suggest broken hopes), the cast take out their necessary props: false noses, books (not many of them), straw boats for the grammar school up the road.

The impersonations speak of close knowledge of the various slobby, vain or anguished subjects, and the accompanying facial expressions can be marvellously funny. There are also some excellent jokes, not solely about sex.

Against this sprightly achievement must be set the uncertain treatment Godber gives his serious messages - instantly recognizable because the characters stop swearing to deliver them.

He places these sensibly, one inside (boy to headmistress) and one outside the play within the play, but they are brushed with the soft-heartedness that has already unfortunately taken the crispness off the second half.

Still, the author's heart is absolutely in the right place, and the young audience applauding his lines may also have seen school drama as a soft option, as do the three in the play, before discovering how it can reward the time which is spent on it.

Jeremy Kingston

The Australian Ballet returns to London, after an absence of 12 years, for two weeks at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, July 26-August 6, opening with the Royal Gala London premiere of Morna Giedgud's *The Sleeping Beauty*.



Not plain: Fidelia (Geraldine Alexander) with Manly (David Calder)

Early anti-hero

THEATRE

The Plain Dealer

Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon

Playwrights are apt to define themselves through the work of their predecessors, but seldom with the X-ray clarity that Wycherley risked in his last play.

In summary, *The Plain Dealer* sounds as if it ought to live up to its title, as the straightforward fable of an honest sea-captain returning from the Dutch wars for a painful education in the corruption of the society which he has been defending.

Since Manly turned his back on it, London has turned into a snake-pit of lies and malice, and the two people he most trusted in the world - who are his fiancée Olivia, and his best friend Vernish - have married and stolen all his life's savings.

Such a story coming from the supposedly Jonsonian author prepares you for a vigorous moral comedy with the blacks and whites clearly marked out. Nothing could be further from the play itself.

Looking for previous treatments of his theme, Wycherley went back not to Jonson, but to Molière and Shakespeare and produced a combined reworking of *Le Misanthrope* and *Twelfth Night*. The plot thus expands to include a Viola-like character, Fidelia, who follows the hero she adores, disguised as a boy, and who takes on Cessario's role of proxy wooer.

She is there for structural reasons, as the one entirely sympathetic figure, and Geraldine Alexander achieves a remarkable success in bringing her even half to life in Ron Daniels's production.

It is what Wycherley does to the other characters that reveals what he is up to. Olivia, for instance, is assembled not only from her

Shakespearean namesake and from the flirtatious Célimène, but also from Molière's arch-prude, Arsinoë, thus turning into a villainess of inextinguishable hypocrisy.

Molière's ambly compromising Philinte is reborn as Freeman, a rakish fortune-hunter always ready for a window-smashing night on the town.

Manly himself contains elements of Orsino and Alceste, combined with an ungovernably surly temper from which he emerges, in David Calder's performance, as a cross between Timon of Athens and Toots of Mr Groucher. He has strong claims as the English stage's first anti-hero.

The problem for quaysy spectators, and the evident reason for the play's thin performance history, is that nobody (except the languishing Fidelia) is in the right. Olivia and her simpering fops are the obvious satiric target, but it is the righteous self-interest and moral blindness of Manly that the play really blows to pieces.

Played on a clinical adaptation of the Restoration forestage, Mr Daniels's production is a high-energy event that negotiates some of the trickiest gear changes anywhere in English comedy. Besides the Gallic and Shakespearean elements, there are straight Restoration fops (to which Mark Hadfield and Tom Fahy bring the exact quality of virile effeminacy), and "humour" characters, like the litigious Widow Blackacre - played with single-issue fanaticism by Marjorie Yates, who does not quite confirm Voltaire's view that she was the most comical character ever staged.

Joanne Pearce's Olivia, a smiling odalisque, oozing poison like some fragrant perfume, justifies her effect on the males in the very act of giving herself away. It is from her that the production makes its trickiest ascent near tragedy, when Manly, knowing what she has done, continues his blind pursuit from abject lust. A remarkable show.

Irving Wardle

Old fashioned spell cast again

OPERA

Cosi fan tutte

London Coliseum

John Cox's ENO production of *Così fan tutte* asks no really awkward questions about the opera's implicit chauvinism. The men deceive as if by right, and seem only temporarily flustered by the results. The women, although (in this casting) vested with considerably more character and vivacity, appear finally almost to be grateful that their own natures have been revealed as fickle and foolish.

But the staging, played before Roger Butler's elegant landscapes, is so deft and observant (and with the benefit, this time round, of some new witticisms, added by Cox to the Revd Marmaduke Browne's 1890 translation) that one willingly suspends modern reservations. Moreover, this revival is impressively conducted by Graeme Jenkins, making his ENO debut after much promising work at Glyndebourne.

Jenkins ended towards an over-weighty orchestral sound in the overture and early scenes. From a superbly delicate Act I trio onwards, however, he judged balances perfectly. He also recognized the moments where

lyricism must be given space to flower, and the places (notably a scintillating Act I finale) where pace and precise ensemble are all important.

As Dorabella, Della Jones gives a monumental performance. Whether it is a performance that belongs in *Così fan tutte* is a matter of taste. It does have elements of a Gilbertian matron enjoying a final fling, which makes her meek compliance at the end a little unbelievable. But her stage presence is compelling, her timing immaculate, and her singing brilliantly vibrant.

Felicity Lott's Fiordiligi is an ideal foil: deeper in feeling, more vulnerable. She lacked low-register power at some crucial points, but her direct and beautifully tuned delivery of the big Act II aria cast a spell over the house.

A relative newcomer to ENO, Andrew Shore, offered a highly polished (if perhaps too genial) Don Alfonso. Christopher Booth-Jones (Guglielmo) saved his most stylish singing for the Act II duets. Maldwyn Davies must complement his honeyed tone with much more fire if his Ferrando is to register as a personality.

Cathryn Pope's Despina lacks natural vivacity, but a capacity (alone, among the women) to see the serious side made this character unusually interesting.

Richard Morrison

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BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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FILMS

Also on national release
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BABETTE'S FEAST (U): One of Karen Blixen's lighter tales, introduced to the screen by a fellow Dane, Gabriel Axel, with Stéphane Audran (105 min).
Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). Progs 2.40, 5.00, 7.25, 9.45, 11.45.
Chelsea (01-351 3742). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.
Renoir (01-837 8402). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

BROADCAST NEWS (15): Sick drama about network TV journalism from James L. Brooks (*Terms of Endearment*), with William Hurt, Albert Brooks, Holly Hunter as the trio caught in a jumble of professional and romantic problems (132 min).
Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 2.50, 5.20, 8.10.
Odeon Haymarket (01-439 7697). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.10.
Odeon Kensington (01-602 6644). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.10.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5906). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.15.

EMPIRE OF THE SUN (PG): J.G. Ballard's autobiographical novel about a British child in Shanghai during the invading Japanese in the Second World War, with Christian Bale, John Malkovich and Nigel Havers (153 min).
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 1.45, 5.10, 8.40.

FATAL ATTRACTION (18): A spurned lover (Glenn Close) takes revenge on Michael Douglas, his wife (Anne Archer) and family. Adrian Lyne directs this unsettling thriller (110 min).
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.15, 5.10, 8.15.

FLORIAN IN THE ATTIC (15): V.C. Andrews's suspense novel about two children confined by their mother (Victoria Tennant) to an attic. Directed by Jeffrey Bloom (92 min).
Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149). Progs 2.00, 4.15, 6.30, 8.45.
Odeon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 4.15, 6.30, 8.45.
Odeon Oxford Street (01-338 0310). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.25, 8.30.

THE LAST EMPEROR (15): Bernardo Bertolucci's epic, winner of nine Oscars, tells the story of P. Yi, China's last imperial ruler. With John Lone, Peter O'Toole (162 min).
Lumière (01-439 0691). Progs 1.20, 4.35, 7.50, 10.25.

MOONSTRUCK (PG): Should Cher play it safe and marry Danny Aiello, or follow her heart and go for his brother, Nicholas Cage? Norman Jewison took this director award at the Berlin Film Festival and Cher the Best Actress Award (102 min).
Cannon Baker Street (01-335 9772). Progs 1.35, 3.50, 6.05, 8.20.
Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149). Progs 1.10, 3.30, 5.50, 8.25.
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 5.10, 8.10.

PROMISED LAND (15): Aimless young man goes to live in America with Jason Gedrick, Meg Ryan and Tracy Felt.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

HERZOG
(A) A high-ranking German or Austrian noble, before 1919, when they were mercifully abolished.

ROSINANTE
(A) A war-torn man, from Don Quixote's horse boy, full of bluntness, but highly regarded by him.

GOSSOON
(A) American slang for a young man or woman, from the French gosse.

SUCUBUS
(A) A female devil who seduces and rapes men while they are asleep; the male version who does this to women is an incubus.

directed by Michael Hoffman (103 min).
Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-638 6148). Progs 1.35, 3.40, 6.00, 8.25.

RETRIBUTION (18): Dennis Lipscomb as a would-be suicide whose body is taken over by a murder victim bent on revenge (108 min).
Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149). Progs 2.45, 5.30, 8.25.

THREE MEN AND A CRADLE (PG): Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg play confirmed bachelors suddenly find love in the presence of baby-sitters. Leonard Nimoy directs. (103 min).
Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.40.

THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING (18): Philip Kaufman's adaptation of Milan Kundera's novel; a story of love and political oppression set against the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Juliette Binoche, Lena Olin (179 min).
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 1.25, 5.00, 8.35.

WALL STREET (15): Oliver Stone's impressively staged, but overly didactic, story of greed and stock market manipulations. Michael Douglas won an Oscar as the amoral wheeler-dealer. Charlie Sheen co-stars as his naive protégé (126 min).
Odeon Leicester Square (01-830 6111). Progs 1.45, 5.10, 8.20, 11.45.

WITHIN A REACH (15): Two out-of-control British actors try to maintain sanity at the end of the Sixties. Written and directed by Bruce Robinson; with Paul McGann and Richard E. Grant (107 min).
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 1.55, 4.10, 6.25, 8.45.

DOCTOR FAUSTUS: See caption.

EASY VIRTUE: Attractive revival of Noel Coward 1925 with Jane Fonda scandalizing her teenage husband's friends in a new Tony Crisp play. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road (01-379 8107). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.10-10.30pm, mat 2.50-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm, £2.50-21.45.

A FAMILY AFFAIR: Splendid Cheek by Jowl in town again with Caryl Churchill on the Russian merchant class of 1849.

WINTER WARMTHS: 41 Eastern Street (01-379 6569). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.10-10.30pm, mat 2.50-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm, £2.50-21.45.

GOING WEST: Emer Gilspe and Paul McCleary leave New York bound for California in new Tony Crisp play. Soho Poly, 16 Riding House Street W1 (01-336 9505). Tube: Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 8pm, £2.75-24.50.

NANA: Shared Experiences's vigorous production of Zola's tale of a young woman's search for identity. Mermaid Theatre, Puddle Dock EC4 (01-235 5568). Tube: Blackfriars. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.10-10.30pm, mat 2.50-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm, £2.50-21.45.

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LONG RUNNERS: See caption.

REASONABLE DOUBT: Quince Theatre (01-734 1188). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.10-10.30pm, mat 2.50-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm, £2.50-21.45.

THE BUSINESS OF MURDER: Mander Theatre (01-439 0691). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.10-10.30pm, mat 2.50-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm, £2.50-21.45.

CHESS: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8851). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.10-10.30pm, mat 2.50-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm, £2.50-21.45.

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Violence viewed on canvas

"Mercenaries I, 1979" (above) by Leon Golub, a 66-year-old based in Chicago, is one of a series of this artist's pictures addressing military themes. Golub's paintings examine the mentality of wilful cruelty, violent interrogation and torture. His choice of subject is a conscious attempt to restore important current issues to prominence in art without resort to banal levels of glorification and sentiment. His pictures, all of which feature posturing gunfighters before a monochrome background, are not specific to any country or faction. Although each painting is based on a variety of newspaper and television images, some of which bear close specific to events in Africa and South

America, Golub has stated that his work applies to universal concepts of male sexuality, domination and aggression. Eight of Golub's massive paintings ("Mercenaries I is 10 ft x 14 ft) from the *Mercenary* and *Interrogation* series are included in an exhibition featuring four major artists whose work is represented in depth in the *Seatchi Collection*. The other artists are painter Philip Guston and sculptor Joel Shapiro, both Americans, and German painter Sigmar Polke. The exhibition starts today at the Seatchi Gallery, 98A Boundary Road, London NW8 (01-624 8299). Friday and Saturday only, 12 and 6pm, free, until September 30.

DOCTOR FAUSTUS: See caption.

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ROCK

FAST COLOUR: Drummer John Stevens leads Harry Beckford and Dudu Pukwana in some arduous free-improvised improvisation. Cambridge Modern Jazz Club, Flambards, Rose Crescent, Cambridge (into 0223 62550) 8pm, 25.

ROCK

RUSH: Heavy Canadian techno-bands with lots of fast waddy bits. Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middlesex (01-902 1234) 7.30pm, 25-210.

ZAPP/ROCK: Funky double bill with Zapp from Ohio, led by the redoubtable brothers Roger and Larry Troutman, and New York dance sensation, the Force MD's. Previously postponed. Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081) 7.30pm, £2.50-29.50.

ROCK

THE KNOT GARDEN: First night of Nicholas Hytner's new production of T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* for the Royal Opera, with Stan Edwards conducting a strong young cast. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068), 8-10pm, £1-22.50.

COSI FAN TUTTE: English National Opera's revival with Felicity Lott and Della Jones, conducted for the first time by Graham Johnson. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1068), 8-10pm, £1-22.50.

CARMEN: Revival of Opera North's calculatedly splendid production with Cynthia Buchanan in the title role. Grand Theatre, Leeds (01-535 5511), 7.15-10.30pm, £3.50-17.50.

TOSCA: Festival of Welsh National Opera's production with Suzanne Murphy in the title role. Royal Opera House, Southampton (0703 229771), 7.15-10.30pm, £3.50-17.50.

IL SERAGLIO: Opera 90's small scale but effective travelling production, now conducted by Stephen Barlow. Demetrio, Northampton (0604 248111), 7.30-10.30pm, £3.50-21.11.

GALLERIES

CONVERSATION PIECES: A show of novel designs in furniture, ceramics and glass. Cranbrook Workshops, Brewery Lane, Cranbrook, Kent (01-836 3161), 10-10.30pm, £2-21.50.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW: Investigating the nature of art by Helen Chadwick, Rose Garm and others. Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford Street, Manchester (01-602 2453), Tues-Sun 12-8pm, free, until May 28.

THE STAFF PROJECT: Works by painter Ian McKee and photographer T. J. Cooper inspired by stays on the tiny Hebridean island.

JAMES GILLRAY (1758-1818): A collection of political cartoons and caricatures loaned by the British Museum. Kennerley Hall Art Gallery, Surrey (0282-24213), Mon-Fri, 1-5pm, Sun 1-5pm, free, until May 8.

THREE BRITISH PAINTERS: Abstract paintings by John Hayward, Bart Irwin and Basil East.

MATTHEW SMITH (1887-1958): A selection of paintings from the 1920s onwards. Bode Gallery, Springwell Park, Butchersbridge Road, Jarrold (01-489 1607), Tues-Fri 10-5pm, Sat 2-5pm, free, until May 27.

FIVE PAINTERS OF TODAY: Works on paper by German women artists: Abbie, Gierke, Maas, Vary and Wawrin. Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, London SW7 (01-861 3344), Mon-Thurs 12-5pm, Fri 2-5pm, Sat 10-1pm, free, until June 11.

THE BURIED CITY - LONDON: Beneath the streets? See also next page.

GHOSTS, GHOULS AND HAUNTED TAVERNS: Meet St Paul's tube, 7pm, 23 (also next page).

WALKS

THE CITY OF WREN AND DR. JOHNSON: Meet Museum of London, 2.30pm, 23 (also May 9).

BAWDY WALK TO OPERA HOUSE: Meet Covent Garden tube, 7.15pm, 23 (also May 11).

JACK THE RIPPER'S VICTORIAN LONDON: Meet Aldgate East tube, 11am, 23 (also May 9).

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GARDENS

AVON: The Manor House, Weston-super-Mare, 2m NE of Clevedon. Garden, herbaceous, bulbs and alpine; walled and Thrus to September 16, 10-4pm; Sun & Mon May 1, 2.29, 30; August 28, 29, 2-6pm; 75p (Clevedon 87267).

DORSET: Old Rectory, Seaborough, 3.5 of Crewkerne, off B3166, after restoration sign left, left, right, 29m 2nd left in village 2 acres open. Trees, shrubs, flowering shrubs, herbaceous plants, bulbs, ferns, Sun May 1, 2-5pm; 50p. (Broadwindsor 89426).

HAMPSHIRE: Castleport, Castle Hill Lane, Bury, E of Ringwood, A31 to Picket Post, 5 to Bury; 8 acres, bulbs, rhododendrons, camellias, magnolias, and other shrubs, Sun May 1, 2-5pm; 50p. (Broadwindsor 89426).

OXFORDSHIRE: Westwell Manor, Westwell, 2m SW of Burford, just off A40; 6 acres, knot and water garden, potager, shrub roses, herbaceous borders, open to Sun May 2, Sun July 24, 2-6.30pm, 21.

SUSSEX: West Dean Gardens, on A286, 5m N of Chichester, nr Wealden Downland Open Air Museum; 35 acres, fine trees and shrubs, informal garden, wild garden, herbaceous borders, 11-11pm, £1.25. Until Sept 30.

OTHER EVENTS

HARROGATE SPRING FLOWER SHOW: One of the most spectacular early shows in the country with competitions, displays, landscaped settings and horticultural societies. Valley Gardens, Harrogate, Yorkshire, today 10-9pm tomorrow 9.30-5pm. Admission before 4pm 24.50, reduced charge after 4pm.

BOTON DOLL AND TOYMAKERS: CIRCUS Last night of the show this exhibition of work by local craft workers. Boston Guildhall Museum, South Street, Boston, Lincoln (0205 5259). Today, tomorrow 10-5pm. Admission, adults 30p child free.

V & A FIFTHS GALA FILMS: Science fiction addicts can see Jack Arnold's *The Incredible Shrinking Man* today. Also *Waco's Forbidden Planet* tomorrow.

THE APPEAL: Theatres, Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (01-839 6371). Today, tomorrow 3.30pm. Tickets free (limited to the first 60).

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

SOUTH BANK SUMMER ORGAN: Show: Four Sunday afternoon organ recitals, including Carlo Curley playing Bach, Wagner and Mendelssohn; Adrian Lucas; Thomas Trotter; and Wayne Marshall. Series offer available. June 13-18.

Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 3191, 01-828 8800). Advance booking open. General booking from May 3-4.

A CELEBRATION OF POETRY: Week of literary events including arrival of *Shakespeare's Sonnets* by John Galsworthy, Poets Library, with readings by Derek Walcott, Douglas Dunn and others. June 13-18.

Scottish National Orchestra: 68 Proms includes Tchaikovsky and Beethoven's 9th symphonies; appearances by Craig Sheppard, John Llewellyn, Orian Amiel Hughes, and Alexander Gornall. May 25-26.

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THE COUNTRY WIFE: Film performances of William Warley's restoration comedy, directed by John Galsworthy, Everyman Theatre, Regent Street, Cheltenham, Glos. (0242 572753).

UNTILTED LANDSCAPES: Large colour photos by Susan Tranter. Ends today. Spitalfields Health Centre, 9-11 Brick Lane, London E1.

SHAPPOFF UDDINE: Last opportunity to join artist in residence making paintings relating to Katharine in exhibition. Today, 2-3pm.

Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (01 377 0107).

Theatre: Jeremy Kingston: Films: *Shakespeare's Sonnets</*

Legal ethics beat the taxman

Continued from page 1

But he added that the long-term benefits of the ruling were less certain, because it was believed the Inland Revenue planned to include provisions in next year's Finance Bill allowing legal professional privilege to be overridden for the purposes of tax investigation.

"It is part of the increasing extension of the Inland Revenue's powers, which *The Times* has recently focused on," he said.

Both branches of the legal profession successfully lobbied against such a provision just before this year's Budget. But the ruling may fuel the Inland Revenue's efforts next year.

The Law Society welcomed the ruling yesterday. Mr Mal Cornwell-Kelly, deputy director, legal practice, said: "This is a welcome reaffirmation of the value of professional privilege and endorses our view that overrides of that privilege are not justified."

Mr Goldberg's success comes after several years of battling by the Revenue Special Office, which has been investigating the tax affairs of Mr Al-Atia, the owner of the documents.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Kennedy, said the investigation concerned the alleged payment to Mr Al-Atia of his Panamanian companies of about \$17 million (about \$9 million) in commission on oil shipments from Abu Dhabi to America. Documentary evidence had been impossible to obtain, and Mr Al-Atia had denied receiving money taxable in this country, said the judge.

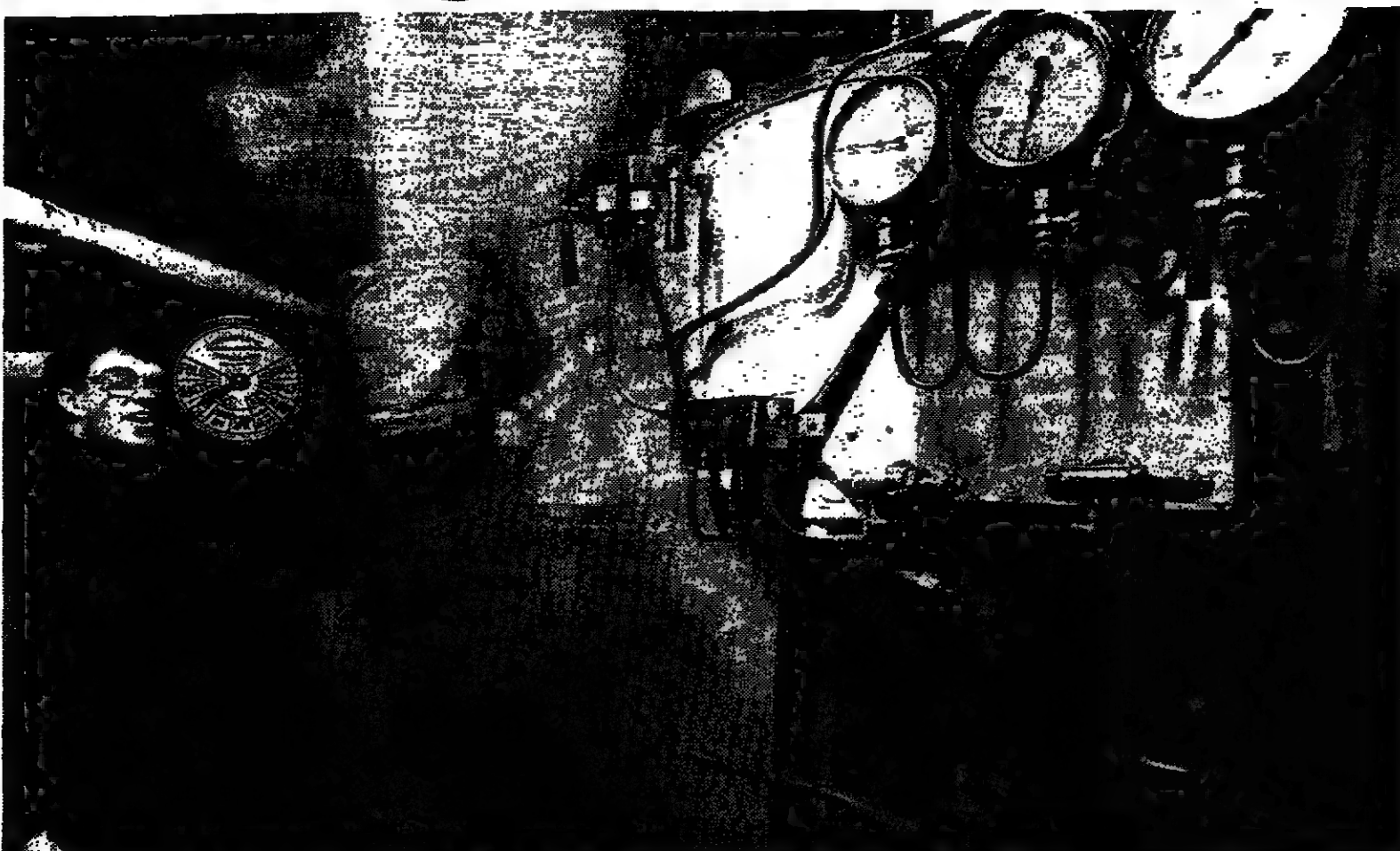
The Inland Revenue had been "frustrated at every turn" and finally decided to seek copies of documents made by Mr Al-Atia's American attorney, Mr Elwood Rickless, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from Mr Goldberg.

Mr Goldberg was served with notices under the Taxes Management Act, 1970, requiring him to hand over the documents. He refused.

The judge said Section 20B (8) of the 1970 Act stated that a barrister was not obliged to deliver or make available without his client's consent any document for which privilege could be claimed. The case raised the question whether the copy documents fell into that category.

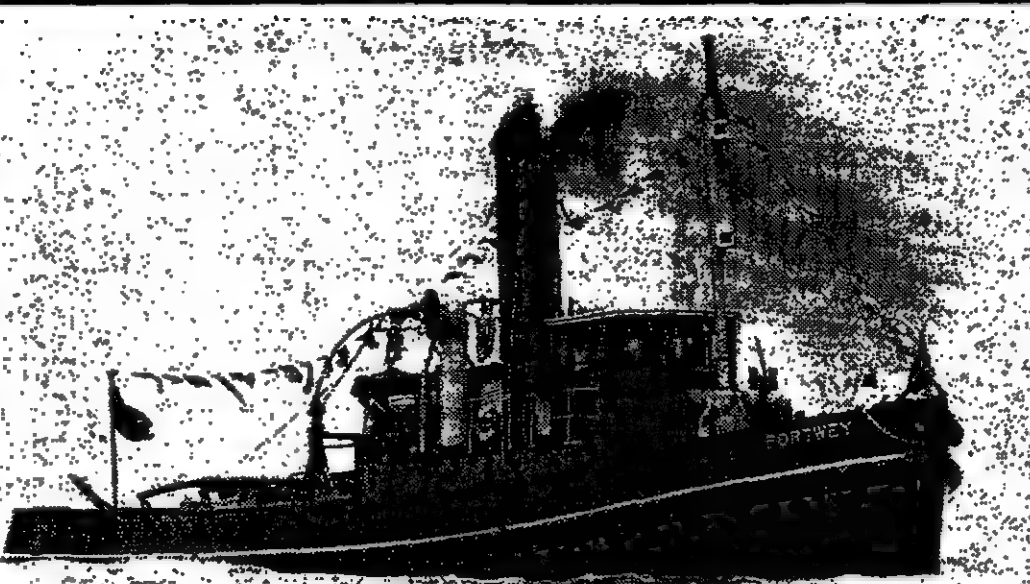
Granting Mr Goldberg's application for a declaration in his favour, the judge said the documents had come into existence only for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from Mr Goldberg. "As the law stands we have no hesitation in saying that, because the documents came into existence for that purpose, they attract privilege so that Mr Goldberg cannot, without the consent of his client, comply with the requirements of the notice."

Power and glory of the steam tugboat



Mr Robin Currie, a steam tug engineer, showing off the impressive engine room, above, of the steam tug Portway, right, which was yesterday letting loose a victory hoot in celebration of its win in the marine category of the 1988 Steam Heritage Awards, presented at the North Woolwich Old Station Museum in London's Docklands. The Portway, a twin-screw river tug built in 1927, is one of the oldest coal-fired tugs in the country still maintained and operating in steaming condition (Robin Young writes). Steam Heritage's £2,000 Premier Award for 1988 went to the Long Shop Museum in Leiston, Suffolk, which provides work for the long-term unemployed restoring and demonstrating steam engines and associated equipment. Steam Heritage was formed four years ago by British Coal, and the Solid Fuel Advisory Service, with other interested bodies. This year's six award winners were chosen from more than 50 projects on the theme of coal and steam.

(Photographs: Nick Rogers)



Howe fails to halt TV documentary

Continued from page 1

possible against a programme being shown in Britain which might prejudice an inquest being held abroad.

A spokesman said the programme would almost certainly be screened soon in Gibraltar. "Our concern was that nothing should be done which might prejudice the legal process in Gibraltar, not least one in which British servicemen are involved. What else would you expect the Government to do?"

The evidence given by the translator in the programme is also included in a separate sworn affidavit lodged with a lawyer in Gibraltar, who said last night he would be making copies of this and other affidavits available to the Felix Pizzarello, the coroner who is scheduled to open the inquest towards the end of June.

The lawyer said there was now further evidence which casts doubt on the official version of events.

It is understood that Ms Proetta, who has a flat in the tower block overlooking the petrol station where the shooting took place, is not presently in Gibraltar. She travels regularly, but her kitchen has a panoramic view of the area where the killings occurred and it is understood she saw the events from there.

Certain assurances are expected to be given to the people of Gibraltar, possibly in the form of an indication from the provisional IRA that there will be no interference with the inquest.

Mr Eric Thistlethwaite, Gibraltar's Attorney General, appealed yesterday for witnesses of the incident to come forward with any evidence.

US offers new deal to Noriega

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The United States is attempting to negotiate a new deal with General Manuel Noriega, Panama's military dictator, under which he would remain in power for a few months before retiring under a face-saving formula.

In a sharp change of tactics, the Administration now appears willing to abandon its insistence that he go into exile. The White House said that the main objective was for him to leave power and that it would "prefer" him to live abroad.

Washington's readiness to offer significant compromises amounts to a humiliating acknowledgement that its attempt to topple General Noriega through economic pressure is becoming a failure. Changing tack, page 8

Seamen's move to beat sequestration

Continued from page 1

43, was in Rotterdam when her home was attacked. Mr John Rice, her boyfriend, who was in the house at the time of the attack, said it so infuriated him he promptly rang P&O to say he would be returning to work.

"Gloria and I had been on the picket line until last week and she had helped to set up one of the soup kitchens, but we were finding the strike financially crippling," Mr Rice said.

Last night Mr Christopher Garnett, European director of Sealink, appealed to the NUS to tell its members taking action against the company to return to work. He said his company was not involved with the union's dispute with P&O and did not want to see the NUS assets sequestered. "We do not want confronta-

tion. We are seeking a solution. We are not out to break the NUS," Mr Garnett said. "They are the people we have to work with and we do not want to take sanctions against our employees."

In Rotterdam yesterday one of the P&O ferries moved out of its berth for the first time since the dispute began. The *Pride of Kent*, one of five P&O ships tied up at the Dutch port edged slowly from its berth without prior notice during the morning.

It was thought to be heading for Dover but a short time later the Harbour Master's Office in Rotterdam said: "It is just being moved to another place in the shipyard. We have not been notified it is going to sail. The company is in any event required to give us an hour's notice of its intention to leave port."

Commons sketch

Smiles disappear as wrath descends

One of many oddities about Mr Paisley is the amount of smiling he gets up to. He smiles so much, and so energetically, that in a better world he might have been usefully employed in advertisements for leading brands of toothpaste, or perhaps as a Northern Irish Bisto Kid.

Another oddity concerns the speed with which his smile can turn into a scowl, and then back to a smile once more, without any of the conventional facial contortions or hesitations in between.

His visits to the Chamber of the House of Commons are rare, but he puts them to good use. He sits on the Tory benches beside the eerie figure of Mr Peter Robinson, who resembles a duller version of Mr John Cartwright. This makes Mr Robinson, in terms of dullness, really pretty dull.

While Mr Robinson sits upright, thin and expressionless, Mr Paisley spends much of his time lolloping on his corner seat, his legs outstretched, a chuckle playing on his lips, perusing his order paper. Sometimes he looks for all the world like Uncle Mac rejoining in fond memories of the last Teddy Bears Picnic.

But kiddies on all sides of the House would be well advised not to offer this particular Uncle Mac a cookie. His large and sudden bitches can often incorporate a hand or two. Then, munching on the hand, he will issue one of his red-faced and scornful chuckles, and the whole House will shudder to its very bones.

Questions to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland are a particular favourite of Mr Paisley. Over the years, he has shown a lively personal interest in the affairs of Northern Ireland, and he likes to seek a cheery word of advice from that nice Mr King whenever he can. Before he asks a question, he wipes the chuckle off his face, swallows any hands he might be chewing, leans forward in his seat and does his best to look fearsome. His best happens to be very good indeed. He then looks to his feet, his vast bulk casting a shadow over the Chamber, and that nice Mr King begins to look a little worried.

Yesterday, Mr Paisley wished to know whether Mr

King agreed with the Prime Minister, who believed Mr Harghey had been out of order in his recent speech, or the Foreign Secretary, who believed he had spoken as a patriot. Mr Paisley's questions are notable, among other things, for their volume. They are delivered at a pitch more normally reserved for the issuing of warnings at sea, or the take-off of a Lunar Rocket.

That nice Mr King replied that he agreed with them both, and that he saw no contradiction between the two points of view.

"Of course you wouldn't," boomed Mr Paisley from his corner, his face reddening, his scowl growing ever more cavernous. But within a few seconds he was back to his old smiling self, exchanging giggles with Mr Robinson—a process similar, one might have thought, to exchanging giggles with one of the less outgoing inhabitants of The Chamber of Horrors.

When Mr Kevin McNamara, Shadow Minister for Northern Ireland, bumbled to his feet, Mr Paisley looked as cheery as if Mr Paisley had appeared in a way. McNamara is a white-haired figure of increasing comic potential, always opening his mouth as if to utter a word, but never cooking up objections way after each issue has passed. Having failed to bat an eyelid at the original announcement of the Gibraltar killings, he has recently taken to bawling both eyes out with such vehemence that many wish to call for a doctor. Make way! Make way! A doctor is at hand!

It is only Doctor Paisley, laughing his guts out at Mr McNamara's every protestation. A minute or two later, the Doubled-Up Doctor chose to megaphone his way through the ins and outs of a recent murder, "a well organized inside job". Again, the red-faced scowl, and again, seconds later, the vulpine cackling. Beside him, Mr Robinson took to his feet. During Northern Ireland Questions, there always seems to be one of them up and one down. The two of them resemble nothing so much as grotesque Swiss weather predictors, forever preening gloom ahead.

Craig Brown

UDR to take a break

All 2,800 full-time soldiers in the Ulster Defence Regiment are to be given the chance of at least a week away from Northern Ireland in the next year.

They will broaden their skills and experience in mainland Britain or abroad, Brigadier Michael Bray, the UDR commander, disclosed yesterday.

Some could patrol the frontier with China in Hong Kong's New Territories or Belize's disputed border.

The scheme is intended to sustain morale for what is expected to be a long campaign ahead—and to increase

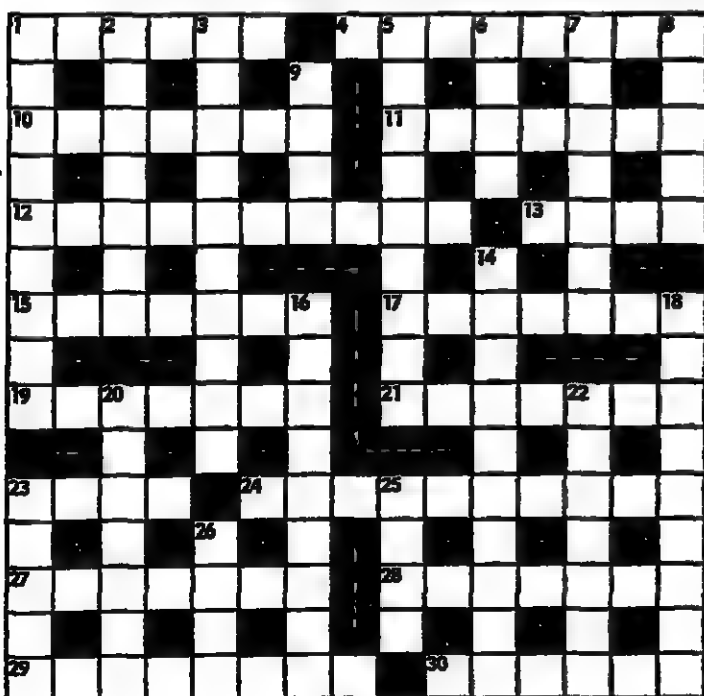
the UDR's appeal to potential full-time recruits.

In a record unique in the British Army, the regiment has been on active operational service for 18 years.

Brigadier Bray said its permanent cadre (full-time members) did not have the variety and stimulation enjoyed by regulars of being posted to different places.

Unlike regular soldiers serving relatively short tours in Ulster, UDR members lived with the possibility of attack every hour of every day in their homes, at work and at recreation.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,656



- ACROSS**
- Scottish philosopher without a name for being sympathetic (6).
 - After a period rabble is repulsed, initially by an explosive device (4,4).
 - Lack of authority to accept, for example, flowers (7).
 - Herb growing round wild ass's retreat (7).
 - Map soldiers employ to find a monastery (10).
 - Scandinavian drink Mickey introduced (4).
 - Rather forward for an under-graduate (7).
 - Exhausted, but ran — and died tragically (7).
 - the sinews, summon up the blood" (*Hen V*) (7).
 - Strike-breakers around Burlington House are six-footers (7).
 - Bird making harsh sound (4).
 - Benevolent type throwing a coin in the water? (4-6).
 - For the French, good attempts at making drums (7).
 - Nimbleness of soldier in Italy on manoeuvres (7).
 - Shape not uncommon for a carriage (8).
 - Lie-able in Pistol's world? (6).

- DOWN**
- A form of restraint for workers embracing strike (9).
 - Mission in confusion, period! (7).
 - A strange thing, to change to work in unsocial hours (5-5).
 - Edmund II's warship (9).
 - At the end of the day it's equally balanced (4).
 - Cheering eggs it on, perhaps (7).
 - Fight in the battalion for the Colour (5).
 - Old court associated with Rochester? (4).
 - 8's qualification to be a landscape gardener (10).
 - Policemen once on horseback, taking second place (7-2).
 - 30 injured in capsized Russian warship (9).
 - Seventeen-year-old legally supported by a princess (7).
 - Unbeliever is at the assembly (7).
 - Puzzle about right vehicle for a conductor (5).
 - Tell, like many an awkward lout (4).
 - A Shakespearean fly-by-night? (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- HEXZOG**
a. A type of warship
b. A South African coin
c. A webmaster
- ROSINANTE**
a. An old back
b. A flowering shrub
c. A type of lacquer
- GOSSEON**
a. The female gamet
b. A young man
c. A knitting stitch
- SUCCUBUS**
a. A female goblin
b. A genus of cactus
c. Pecuniary assistance

Answers on page 20, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,655

GUMSHOE RABBIT
L O S T O E U
A S T I R P L U G G Y B A C K
Z M U L L O F F E N E
I N L E G A N T R A T E D
E R R O R N I
R O W E D A M S T E R D A M
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A E G I P T I Q U A D R A N T
O R T E R N I T
P H E N O M E N A A U D I T
A E N R A N O R
M U N E R Y E P E R G N E

WEATHER

Rain at first over south Wales, southern England and Northern Ireland will spread gradually north-east, becoming heavy and prolonged. Scotland will be much drier with sunny periods, but the eastern side will have occasional showers, especially over the far north-east. Most places will feel colder than yesterday, as winds freshen from the east. Outlook: More rain followed by sunshine and showers.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Algiers	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright

HIGH TIDES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright

THE POUND

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright

AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 6.51 pm to 6.54 am
Bristol 9.00 pm to 6.14 am
Edinburgh 8.18 pm to 6.51 am
Manchester 8.08 pm to 6.58 am
Penzance 8.08 pm to 6.50 am

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C
(54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.2hr.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, about 1, b, 1, c, 1, d, 1, e, 1, f, 1, g, 1, h, 1, i, 1, j, 1, k, 1, l, 1, m, 1, n, 1, o, 1, p, 1, q, 1, r, 1, s, 1, t, 1, u, 1, v, 1, w, 1, x, 1, y, 1, z, 1.

PM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C
(54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02in.
Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.2hr. Sea: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1014.4 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars—29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: London, 15C (59F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02in.
Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.2hr. Sea: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1014.4 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars—29.53in.

NOON TODAY

Temperatures at midday today: a, about 1, b, 1, c, 1, d, 1, e, 1, f, 1, g, 1, h, 1, i, 1, j, 1, k, 1, l, 1, m, 1, n, 1, o, 1, p, 1, q, 1, r, 1, s, 1, t, 1, u, 1, v, 1, w, 1, x, 1, y, 1, z, 1.

THE POUND

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright
Amman	15-25	SE	0-10	b, bright

NOON TODAY

Temperatures at midday today: a, about 1, b, 1, c, 1, d, 1, e, 1, f, 1, g, 1, h, 1, i, 1, j, 1, k, 1, l, 1, m, 1, n, 1, o, 1, p, 1, q, 1, r, 1, s, 1, t, 1, u, 1, v, 1, w, 1, x, 1, y, 1, z, 1.

THE POUND

Temperatures at midday today: a, about 1, b, 1, c, 1, d, 1, e, 1, f, 1, g, 1, h, 1, i, 1, j, 1, k, 1, l, 1, m, 1, n, 1, o, 1, p, 1, q, 1, r, 1, s, 1, t, 1, u, 1, v, 1, w, 1, x, 1, y, 1, z, 1.

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posts.
Unlike regular soldiers
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with the possibility of
at every hour of every
their homes at work
and recreation.

Executive Editor
David Brewerton
STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share
1444.7 (-4.2)
FT-SE 100
1804.4 (-2.3)
Bargains
27629 (28684)
USM (Detastream)
151.19 (+0.46)
THE POUND
US dollar
1.870 (same)
W German mark
3.1301 (-0.0131)
Trade-weighted
78.0 (-0.2)

Racal plans flotation of Vodafone

By Joe Joseph
Racal Electronics is planning to float off Racal Telecommunications, including its fast-growing Vodafone cellular telephone operator, as a separate public company, probably within three to five months.
Speculation that the decision was a rushed defensive move designed to thwart a hovering predator sent Racal's share price soaring 72p to 318p last night, after 65 million shares changed hands.
Racal says the aim is to unleash the full benefits of the highly rated cellular telephone industry. Racal believes Vodafone's glossy prospects are not fully reflected in Racal's - until recently - sleepy share price.
The decision to sell, in principle, a minority stake in the Vodafone empire was taken at a board meeting yesterday morning, after what Racal says was months of deliberation. The subsequent announcement was made to try to prevent Racal's share price being jostled by speculation as the plans progressed.
But the market is dizzy with speculation that Racal is being stalked by an unwelcome predator, after evidence that as much as 20 per cent of the company's shares may have

Solid half-time results help sweeten takeover



Smiles of success: (left) Neil Shaw, chairman, and James Kerr Muir of Tate & Lyle yesterday (Photograph: Alan Weller)

T&L lifts Staley bid to \$1.4bn

By Michael Tate
Tate & Lyle has raised its takeover bid for Staley Continental, the Illinois corn refiner, to \$1.4 billion (£746 million), and yesterday supported its move with a penny-a-share sweetener on the interim dividend and a solid half-time profits increase of 3.6 million.
The new offer, up from \$32 a share to \$35, brought no immediate response from the Staley board, which had rejected the first bid and has effectively put the company up for auction. T&L's tender offer expires on May 10.
The increase reflects the strong interest being shown in the parts of Staley that T&L has indicated that it does not want - notably the CFS Continental food distribution business.
Analysts have estimated CFS's worth at something over \$500 million, but it is support of the leading Illinois politicians and the Staley workforce. Staley has serious management problems, he said.
T&L's results for the half-year to end-March were up to expectations, with pretax profits up from £40.2 million to £43.8 million. A lower tax charge helped lift earnings from 30.3p to 35.2p, and the interim dividend is raised from 9p to 10p.
Group processing and trading profits edged lower to £8.8 million, while the service businesses dipped from £7.2 million to £3.7 million. But the automotive and industrial operations overcame the dollar's weakness to make £6.1 million, against £5.1 million.

B&C sets aside £45m for losses on US investment

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor
Mr John Gunn's British & Commonwealth has provided for losses totalling nearly £45 million on a \$60 million investment in Kaines, the US commodity trader.
Losses of \$20 million were taken against investment profits in the first half of the year. Thereafter B&C took full control of Kaines in order to give it backing without investing more money. Since then, Kaines's operations have been run down sharply and B&C has now taken additional losses of £30.7 million as an extraordinary item.
Mr Gunn believes the losses in Kaines contracts have been fully allowed for and the whole operation has been wound down.
British & Commonwealth profits rose the last surge by 154 per cent to £130.9 million in 1987, a year in which, Mr Gunn, now chairman, says: "The management of the group, the sources of turnover and profit, and, the shareholding structure have all changed almost beyond recognition."
That figure is struck after charging £14.6 million against profits to amortize goodwill. B&C has capitalized the cost over net tangible assets when it has bought financial services businesses and by the end of 1987 had accumulated £750 million of goodwill in its balance sheet, dwarfing the net tangible assets of about £450 million.
B&C is writing this off over 25 years to comply with the new requirements of statement of standard accounting practice (number 22). But it is doing so under strong protest.
He thinks the standard is mistaken and can distort the true picture of trading results. Ignoring goodwill items such as the value of brand names can also lead to the undervaluation of a business such as Rowntree, making it more vulnerable to a takeover bid.
Taxation took 38.7 per cent of pretax profits, compared with 36.1 per cent in 1986 because the amortization of goodwill is not allowable against corporation tax.
Earnings per share are up from 14.8p to 22.5p after the goodwill charge. The annual dividend has been raised by a third to 8p per share.
B&C shares fell 11p to 272p on the profit announcement, which was slightly below earlier market forecasts.
Bricom, the group's original trading arm, made £30.5 million (£27.2 million) but negotiations are on for a sale to management. The company also hopes that after the failure of Quadrex's £280 million purchase of the former Mercantile House wholesale broking businesses, a new sale will be arranged within about two months.

US bank bid agreed by Royal

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent
The Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday revealed that it was paying \$440 million (£234 million) for Citizens Financial Group, the Rhode Island bank with which it has been negotiating a takeover for more than a month.
Under the agreed terms of the takeover, the Royal Bank will pay \$30.50 per ordinary share for Citizens, representing a price/earnings ratio of 16.9 times.
The terms of the deal were widely welcomed in the City. Mr John Aitken, banking analyst for County NatWest WoodMac, said: "The stock market had anticipated the worst about a Royal Bank deal in the US, but this is considerably better than expected." There was also approval for the Royal Bank's plan to pay for the purchase with dollar loan finance.
The details of the purchase also include an option for the Royal Bank to subscribe for up to 34.9 per cent of Citizens common stock at \$25.50 a share.
Citizens is an East Coast retail and corporate bank which produced pretax profits of \$10.7 million in the first three months of this year.

Oil export cuts facing opposition

From A Correspondent, Vienna
A proposal to cut oil exports by 5 per cent seemed likely to run into opposition last night from key members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.
The plan, by non-Opec producers, for both groups to cut exports over the next two months was being discussed by Opec late last night.
But while co-operation between both sets of producers was welcomed, several Opec members have claimed they have cut far enough.
Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have indicated they will not allow their market shares to evaporate while some fellow Opec members - including Iraq - illegally discounted prices, or overproduced.
Mr Hussein Kazempour Ardebili, the Iranian deputy oil minister, said Iran welcomed the proposal and would try to help push it through.
Iran has called for a return to the official \$18 a barrel level.
But King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has called for better Opec vigilance in maintaining its current production quotas rather than further cuts in output.
BP forecast, page 25

Suchard nears 20% holding

By Cliff Feltham
Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss chocolate group, has bought more shares in Rowntree - to lift its stake to within a whisker of 20 per cent.
The Swiss group has been steadily adding to its holding in Rowntree since its rival, Nestlé, launched a £2.1 billion takeover bid on Tuesday.
Nestlé, which is prevented from paying more than the 800p cash offer on the table, has been forced to wait on the sidelines as Suchard has continued its buying spree.
Suchard last night admitted that it had picked up a further 5.8 million shares at 925p, to take its stake to 18.7 per cent at the close of business on Wednesday. Further buying yesterday has almost certainly boosted this total to about 20 per cent.
Suchard triggered off the battle for Rowntree when it made a dawn raid two weeks ago, acquiring 14.9 per cent at prices of up to 630p a share.
Suchard has abandoned the self-imposed restriction not to go above 25 per cent or make a full bid itself because of Nestlé's hostile takeover and is now effectively free to continue buying until it has 29.9 per cent.
Nestlé is sitting on a 6.5 per cent holding in the York-based manufacturer of confectionery.
Market observers continue to believe that Suchard is unwilling to lock horns in what would be a fiercely contested battle with its much larger competitor, Nestlé.
But Suchard, by building up its holding in Rowntree, will eventually sell out to Nestlé - or another bidder if one arrives on the scene - and make a handsome profit on the deal, some analysts believe.
Rowntree shares closed 14p lower last night at 912p.

Volcker lends weight to ICI board

By David Smith
ICI may not have caused too many surprises with its first-quarter results, but yesterday, but it was able to lay on an interesting line in new appointments.
Mr Paul Volcker, the former chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, is to join as a non-executive director for about £20,000 a year, plus expenses. Britain's biggest industrial company will have America's biggest central banker, in terms of both physique and influence, on the board.
ICI regards the appointment, made as a result of some debt headhunting by Mr John Clements, the finance director and a long-time acquaintance of the former Fed chief, as a considerable coup.
Mr Volcker left the Fed last summer after eight years as chairman. He told a congressional committee that he gave up the job because he stopped



Volcker: 'considerable coup'

Profit up despite currency loss

ICI increased pretax profits in the first quarter of 1988 from £334 million to £358 million despite currency losses of at least £30 million. Strong demand for most of the group's products supported the advance and these trading conditions have continued into the second quarter.
The group sounded a note of warning over the effects of a strong pound on the translation of its overseas earnings.
The sterling average exchange rate was 19 per cent higher against the dollar in the first quarter of 1988 compared to the first quarter of 1987.
The market was hit earlier in the day by fears of a rights issue from ICI which proved unfounded.
With a gearing level at about 40 per cent of shareholders' funds, ICI has continued to deny that it intends to raise additional capital.
Tempus, page 24

13,000 link up with Stockwatch

Applications for membership of Stockwatch, the computerized telephone share price service launched jointly by The Times and Citycall, continue to run at more than 1,000 a day.
To date Stockwatch, which this week became the first service of its kind to offer a full coverage of the unit trust and bonds market, as well as share prices, has attracted nearly 13,000 members.
The introduction of 7,000 unit trust and bond prices lifts the total number of prices available through Stockwatch to more than 11,000, and makes it easily the most comprehensive service available.
Information on Stockwatch, and an application form and details of a free membership offer to readers of The Times, appear on page 24. And readers can hear a free demonstration of the service simply by telephoning 0898 141 142.

New offer ends trusts' battle

Thornycroft Trust last night ended its long battle with Framlington, the unit trust group, and announced agreement on a higher offer, worth £70 million. The increased offer values Framlington shares at 200p each. Thornycroft has received acceptance from holders of 56 per cent of Framlington.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	2044.43 (-3.48)
Dow Jones	27434.12 (+242.15)
Nikkei Average	2598.14 (+3.88)
Hang Seng	2402.2 (-1.0)
Australia	1448.8 (+4.5)
Frankfurt	1367.5 (+5.0)
Brussels	4689.1 (+5.7)
General	3250.0 (+5.0)
Paris CAC	312.0 (same)
Zurich SRA	449.8 (-2.0)
London	1444.7 (-4.2)
FT-SE 100	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-30	27629 (28684)
FT-100	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-250	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-1000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-1500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-2000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-2500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-3000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-3500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-4000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-4500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-5000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-5500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-6000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-6500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-7000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-7500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-8000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-8500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-9000	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-9500	1804.4 (-2.3)
FT-10000	1804.4 (-2.3)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS	
UK Land	682p (+85p)
Highland Dist	113p (+8p)
D&G Singapore	340p (+10p)
Royal Insurance	426p (+12p)
Vitaprint	702p (+10p)
Cable & Wireless	343p (+12p)
Island Electronics	313p (+72p)
STC	256p (+13p)
Courtaulds	383p (+10p)
SPP	154p (+8p)
Steelcor	329p (+55p)
VSEL	532p (+64p)
FALLERS	
Rowntree	911p (-14p)
Cadbury	340p (-13p)
B&C Commonwealth	270p (-13p)
NIMW Computers	70p (-10p)
Arden	135p (-10p)
ICI	976p (-15p)
Coats Vytella	242p (-8p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	8%
3-month interbank	8 1/8%
3-month eligible bills	7 1/8%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8 1/4%
Federal Funds	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury	5.89-5.87%
30-year bonds	9 1/4-9 1/8%

CURRENCIES

London		New York	
£/\$	1.8700	£/\$	1.8710
£/DM	1.9364	£/DM	1.9368
£/Sfr	2.5964	£/Sfr	2.5965
£/FF	110.6257	£/FF	110.6258
£/Yen	164.57	£/Yen	164.57
£/Index	78.0	£/Index	78.0
ECU	16.61590	SDR	70.76855

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$452.15 PM \$452.10
close	\$451.25-\$451.75 (\$240.75-241.25)
New York	Comex \$451.50-\$452.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June) pm \$17.10bbl (\$17.45)	Deutsche Interbank trading price
--------------------------------------	----------------------------------

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City Diary	24	Foreign Exchange	30
Comment	25	Money Markets	30
Stock Markets	26	Unit Trusts	30
Wall Street	28	USM Prices	30

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LCT FORGING NEW FRONTIERS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Lloyd's members criticize working party proposals

By Alison Eadie
The Association of Lloyd's Members, which represents the interests of Lloyd's non-working members, has criticized two proposals in a consultative document issued yesterday by Lloyd's as going against the letter and spirit of the Neil report in matters of key concern to members.

The issues are mandatory deficit clauses, whereby a member's losses would be offset against his profits before he paid profit commission to his agent, and "pay now sue later" procedures.

The government-appointed committee headed by Sir Patrick Neill QC advocated mandatory deficit clauses for managing agents, and said Lloyd's should temper the effect of the "pay now sue later" provision in the standard agency agreement.

Mr Brian Pomeroy, a member of the three-man Neill committee, was on Lloyd's working party and did not dissent from its conclusions.

The Lloyd's consultative document, from the Underwriting Agency Agreements Working Group, advocated a mandatory horizontal deficit clause - across all a name's syndicates in one year - for members' agents, but came down against a mandatory vertical deficit clause - across one syndicate over several years - for managing agents.

Mr Edward Walker-Arnott, chairman of the working party that produced the document, said a mandatory deficit clause would result in an increase in fixed charges to names.

The working party believed

it would be fairer to give names the choice of whether they wanted a deficit clause with their members' agents, who place names on syndicates. But it feared a mandatory deficit clause for managing agents, who run syndicates, would cause interference in the market place.

A managing agent with large losses on one syndicate could be tempted to wind up the syndicate instead of trading out of the bad patch.

The working party recommended that "pay now sue later" provisions should be included in a name's agreement with his managing but not his members' agent. The priority was to ensure the policyholder was paid promptly.

The ALM wants names to be allowed to establish their

case before an independent arbitrator and, if successful, pay the disputed sum to Lloyd's as trustee. Lloyd's central fund would then be used to protect the policyholder.

The consultative document also advocated a radical overhaul of agency agreements and the methods by which members' and managing agents were remunerated; the creation of a direct contractual relationship between a name and his managing agent; standardization of the formulae for calculating fees; a full explanation from managing agents, and an auditor's report to accompany cash calls on names; and abolition of the rule whereby a name could have only one agent acting for him for each class of business.

Reagan to use veto on trade bill

From Bailey Morris Washington

President Reagan will veto the omnibus trade bill which was given final approval by Congress on Wednesday but wants to work with legislators to produce an acceptable substitute, the White House said yesterday.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, told reporters: "The President will veto the bill." But he added that Mr Reagan wanted to work with Congress to thrash out an "acceptable" trade bill that would strip out a provision requiring advance notice of plant closures.

The Senate, as expected, approved the legislation but the 63-36 vote fell three short of the two-thirds majority necessary to override a presidential veto. The House of Representatives had already passed the same legislation by a majority of 312-107.

House officials said yesterday they had more than enough votes to overturn the veto, but that the Senate leadership, which failed to convince enough Republicans to cross over, did not.

President Reagan is not expected to receive the legislation for more than two weeks.

Regardless of the decisions taken, however, the confrontation between the White House and Congress over trade policy has started a chain of responses that will be hard to stop.

The trade deficit and various populist responses are now certain to become a strong election year issue.

On the sensitive issue of plant closure notification, which President Reagan opposed strongly, Governor Michael Dukakis, the likely Democratic presidential candidate, has gained an important political advantage.

His home state of Massachusetts has passed a law requiring employers to give notice of plant closures and Mr Dukakis said it had saved more than 100 plants and thousands of jobs.

If the legislation is reintroduced, as expected, there will be attempts to restore some of the more onerous protectionist measures.

Crafting a new trade policy, including specific measures to reduce the surpluses of other countries with the US, is likely to be high on the agenda of the next President.

The broad goal of the legislation passed by Congress was to make it easier for the US to attack unfair trade practices of other countries.

COMMENT Racal rides the wave of positive thinking

The extraordinary rise of Racal's shares is at the same time a tribute, a lesson and a warning. The revelation that Racal is looking hard at a flotation of its cellular radio activities took the market by surprise.

Nevertheless, the reaction was a tribute to the commercial instinct of Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal's chairman, and his board, which certainly recognized a "once in a lifetime chance" when the Government put the cellular radio franchise out to tender. Sir Ernest went for it harder than any of his rivals, promised more before he won it, and threw more resources and effort at the project once he had the concession in his hands.

In the early days, when the company faced several years of negative cashflow due to the immense cost of setting up a nationwide coverage of base stations, sceptical investors had only a cheery series of forecasts to raise their spirits. The growth implied by the Racal projections was all too reminiscent of the blue sky numbers put out by EMI in the late 1970s predicting a spectacular payoff from the ill-fated scanner project.

But apart from a stumble or two in the very early days, the forecasts have all proved to be too conservative. The City's generous recognition of the value that Racal's management conjured more or less from thin air is also a

lesson to companies, such as GEC, which have singularly failed to latch on to so much of the potential which has appeared in the electronics industry during the past decade or more. GEC was easily the best-placed British company to ride the crest of a wave of consumer electronics which has filled ordinary households on five continents with appliances and gadgetry to an extent undreamed of 15 years ago. GEC stagnated while it should have been making sure that the Amstrads and the Vodalones of Britain never had an opportunity to get off the ground.

The market reaction to Racal's possible flotation is also a warning that having created such a highly prized asset as Vodafone, Racal is in the same category as Rowntree, Cadbury and others now being eyed up in the context of a post-1992 pan-European marketplace. Racal has by no means exploited the potential of cellular radio in the UK, let alone in the rest of Continental Europe.

We are still some way from the day when it will be possible to carry a portable phone around Europe and call the office directly. But the day is coming closer, with the spread of digital switching equipment. Those like Racal at the forefront of the technology may be able to name their own price, when, not if, the bid eventually comes.

No Big Bang on A-Day

After the Stock Exchange Big Bang, which brought together a whole series of dramatic changes in one day, there is a danger that investors will suddenly think that everyone from insurance brokers and bank managers to City market-makers will start behaving differently as A-Day dawns this morning. It will not quite be like that. The provisions of the Financial Services Act have been rolling in bit by bit.

The biggest change is that only those authorized for business will be allowed to trade. But since large numbers will be working on provisional registration while the bureaucracy grinds on, that only guarantees that someone has filled in a form.

The rulebooks are now largely operative but not the new compensation fund. The regulators are primed to watch for breaches and the practitioners will be nervously hoping they do not make too many.

More than a year after the City Takeover Code was amended, the relatively small number who need to be familiar with its provisions are still making elementary mistakes from time to time. And the Takeover Code, for all its complexity, is a simple tome compared with some of the rulebooks collated by the Securities and Investments Board.

It would be a pity if there were great cries of scandal every time some poor

miscreant makes a mistake over the coming few months. For there will surely be many. And it will only show that they are doing what they did before, not engaging in new and devious sins.

A flow of such cases may well, however, quell the still growing chorus of complaint from the industry over the complexity and cost of what was originally thought to be a light if consistent system of self-regulation.

There is plenty to complain about. Larger life assurance companies and financial service conglomerates face charges of £2 million in the first year to comply with the Act and fear that most of this will turn out to be an annual rather than one-off charge.

This all has to be paid for, principally by the consumer. Investors will see some obvious and tangible benefits from the process set in train by the Act. Not least will be information on how much of their life premiums will go in commission and charges, a good incentive to keep those charges down.

For the most part, however, the consumer should benefit from things that do not happen: biased advice or company failures for instance. Once confidence in the Act is established, customers should enjoy more peace of mind. That is hard to quantify, but is certainly valuable, to the suppliers of financial services as well as their clients.

BP chief predicts \$25 oil price

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Sir Peter Walters, the chairman of BP, yesterday predicted the world oil price will climb to \$25 a barrel in the mid-1990s - just as the North Sea assets which the company acquired in taking over Britoil come on stream.

He told the company's annual meeting that the target price of \$18, which the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was trying to achieve was the right price at present.

He said: "It gives the producers a return and is also the right level for the consumers."

Sir Peter said the assets acquired from Britoil will be coming on stream just when he hopes the world oil price will start to climb again.

He said: "We have never allowed market uncertainties to distract BP. Exploration from its principal role of exploring for and managing the group's oil and gas reserves. But perhaps of greatest and most recent significance to our exploration business has been our acquisition of Britoil."

"Even today, two decades after it began producing, the North Sea is still an area of enormous potential, offering exciting opportunities in politically stable conditions for many years ahead."

"But companies need all the

financial strength, technological expertise and international experience they can command if these opportunities are to be realized.

"By adding BP's resources to those of Britoil, we can achieve more together than either could have done alone. That was the thinking behind our bid."

Sir Peter also told the meeting that the 22 per cent stake now held in the company by the Kuwaiti government was a holding larger than the company would prefer to see in the hands of any single shareholder.

"They have stated they regard their stake in BP as a long-term strategic investment. That is a good reason why it would not be in their interests to do anything which might be interpreted as inconsistent with this objective."

Some shareholders - including an aborigine woman who had travelled 12,000 miles to attend - voiced concern about BP's involvement in the Olympic Dam uranium mining project in north Australia.

They claimed it was harming the environment and damaging the sacred sites of the Kokatha aborigine tribe.

Sir Peter said he was visiting the site in June to see how the BP team was handling the environmental issues.



The price is right: Sir Peter Walters at yesterday's meeting

North Sea oil outlook good, says broker

By Our Energy Correspondent

The North Sea will continue to make a significant contribution to Britain's economy in the next decade, according to oil analysts at County NatWest WoodMac.

The broker suggests that by 1995 oil production from the North Sea will have dropped from 2.4 million barrels a day to about 1 million. But it adds that it is not unreasonable to assume that this figure will be exceeded because of new advanced recovery techniques being developed.

"If the outlook for the fields in production looks bright, the prospects for the UK as an exploration province is better still. Indeed the North Sea is regarded by many as being one

of the world's premier areas of future potential," the report says.

"Over the past 15 years the North Sea has developed an enviable infrastructure which is attractive to companies, both as a means of limiting capital expenditure on new fields and also as a means of boosting the economics of mature fields in the decline phase by shared operating costs or tariff receipts."

The report says the short to medium-term continued success will buoy up industry enthusiasm, and a regular award of acreage should ensure the mature areas are re-examined and the potential of new areas investigated.

SPP agrees £31m Braithwaite bid

By Cliff Feltham

Braithwaite, the engineering and cleaning equipment group, yesterday launched a £31 million takeover bid for SPP, the maker of Godiva fire pumps.

The board of SPP, which owns just over 6 per cent of the equity, is recommending the cash-and-shares offer, which values its shares at 161p each.

In the stock market, the shares shot up by 32p to 155p. Braithwaite is also offering a cash alternative of 155p.

The merger will create a new force in specialist equipment hire by bringing together Braithwaite's subsidiary, Andrews and the SPP offshoot, Sykes.

Braithwaite, which is estimating pretax profits for the year just ended of not less than £3.7 million, took over Andrews - which hires and sells heating, drying and air conditioning equipment - last year for £27 million.

SPP, which was bought out from Booker in 1983 and returned to the stock market in 1985, went through a transitional period in 1987, turning in profits of just above £2 million on sales of £43.8 million.

The terms of the offer are 32 new Braithwaite shares and £79.16 in cash for every 100 SPP shares. Braithwaite is expecting to recommend a dividend for the year of 4.5p.

Cleaning up at the dogs

Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, the Bermuda-based cleaning to security group previously known as Hawley, is moving in royal circles these days. He has, in fact, rubbed shoulders with the Princess of Wales twice. In an interview, he said he was persuaded by the man who persuaded her to attend a greyhound meeting at Wembley Stadium last week - the first royal patronage of the sport for many years. While Ashcroft refuses to confirm my story - "I think someone is winding you up," he says - it is nevertheless interesting to observe that the princess, clad in traditional DJ with trendy green waistcoat, sat next to Ashcroft at dinner, and presented the prize for one race... the ADT Trophy. Even though the winning dog, Morning Break, should have been disqualified for deliberate interference, the stewards at the Wembley meeting were so anxious not to spoil the princess's evening that they bent the rules to allow the ceremony to go ahead. Ashcroft's dog later met the princess at the ball a few weeks ago when he apparently ignored protocol by inviting her up to his box for an impromptu visit.

Party time

Ian Kerr, the executive director of Kidder Peabody International, the American investment bank, is, I hear, planning to celebrate his 46th birthday tomorrow in some considerable style. The venue will be

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Saga of free-spending

TSB may have shifted its annual meeting from a Friday to a Thursday to make it cheaper for pensioners to attend, but Saga Holidays, whose AGM takes place in Folkestone today, has gone one better. It has offered all shareholders free second-class rail travel to their headquarters on the Kent coast, with the option of first-class travel costing just £5, from anywhere in Britain. It also offered to arrange discounted hotel accommodation in Folkestone or London. Given the nature of its business it is perhaps hardly surprising that Saga is able to negotiate good deals. Last year it cost the company just £2,000 to transport an AGM audience of 200. This year as many as 350 are expected, some coming from the north of Scotland.

the conservatory in the garden of his Georgian town house in Chelsea. Reputed to have cost more than the house itself, the marble conservatory is described by neighbours as being Chelsea's answer to the Parthenon. A statue of Kerr's hero, Eurobond market pioneer Hans-Joerg Rudloff has pride of place on the patio.



"The optimists are queuing for the ferries, and the pessimists for the Tunnel."

A royal share

Could it be that the Queen owns shares in the Hudson's Bay Company? According to author Peter Newman, who is half-way through *Caesars of the Wilderness*, a four-volume history of Canada's oldest and most powerful company, that just might be the case. As the only royally chartered company still in existence, it was apparently granted its charter by Charles II in 1670, who is said to have been rewarded with stock. Intrigued to know if the Royal Family still held shares, Newman approached the late Lord Adeane, the Queen's former financial adviser, but he refused to discuss Her Majesty's investments. So Newman asked Donald McGovern, HBC's present governor. He revealed that while the Queen's name was nowhere to be found on the company's share register, she might perhaps hold them in the name of a merchant bank or nominee. McGovern did let slip, however, one other crucial piece of evidence. He was once standing next to the Duke of Edinburgh at a function during a royal tour of Canada, and just as the noise level suddenly rose, the Consort apparently turned to McGovern, and whispered: "How are we doing?"

The television coverage of Britoil's new board proved somewhat embarrassing for Scottish Television, which held an interview with Jack Weighman, Britoil's best dissenting shareholder, as being one with John Saint, Britoil's new chief executive.

Carol Leonard

STATE OF THE NATION

Dividend and Earnings up

- Significant improvement in UK sugar refining
- Redpath Sugars results remain very satisfactory
- Sugar trading and malting businesses achieve substantially higher profits
- Interim dividend increased by 11%
- Earnings per share up 16%

Unaudited Interim Results		1988	1987
		26 weeks to 26th March	26 weeks to 26th March
Pretax profits		\$43.8m	\$40.2m
Interim dividend per \$1 ordinary share		10.0p	9.0p
Earnings per \$1 ordinary share		35.2p	30.3p

These Unaudited Interim Results do not constitute full financial statements. Details of the interim figures for the 26 weeks to 26th March 1988 are being mailed to shareholders.

Further copies may be obtained from: C P McFie, Secretary, Bux & Lyle PLC, Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, London EC3A 6DQ.

A-Day: a new dawn for investors

From today, investors have the backing of new legislation on financial services — but they must ask the right questions if they are to exploit their opportunities.

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

Today is A-Day when investors can look to the Financial Services Act for protection. As Professor Jim Gower — who wrote the report that laid the foundations for the Act — said, the law can never stop the fool and his money being parted, but it should prevent the sensible man being made a fool.

For all its flaws, the Act is a triumph for investor protection. It sets up a framework that should ensure reasonable standards of behaviour from everyone handling the public's investments.

The Gower report was commissioned when City scandals were rife. When Norton Warburg failed, taking huge sums of clients' money with it, it was said many investors were former Bank of England employees, and pressure from this influential band led to the blue touch paper that stretched from 1981 to today.

The keynote of the Act is that the City institutions are entrusted with regulating their own behaviour and standards through a network of bodies

emanating from the Securities and Investments Board, which in its turn takes its authority from the Department of Trade and Industry.

These bodies have had to write lengthy rulebooks to guide their members — but the most testing safeguard is that every organization and individual handling investment money will have to be authorized (hence A-Day).

So the first questions any investor should ask someone offering investment advice or products is: Are you registered? And with whom? This is simple to check. A call to the body itself will confirm the information, which is also on Prestel, available at many public libraries.

Unfortunately, the timetable for the implementation of the Act has slipped. More than 7,000 of those who managed to apply for authorization by the February deadline had not yet had their membership processed by yesterday. So many operators are now working with interim authorization. More than

30,000 investment outfits have passed through the authorization tests.

The compensation fund, which will pay out if all the checks are insufficient to stop a firm losing a client's money fraudulently, will not begin operating until August at the earliest.

Investment houses have had to appoint compliance officers responsible for seeing the Act is implemented, contracts and forms have had to be re-written, and computer systems have had to be changed.

In the end, of course, it is the investors who will end up paying for all this regulation.

One of the most profound changes comes from the polarization of all businesses into either completely free independent advisers able to choose any product, and tied agents selling only the products of one company.

This rule has been particularly inconvenient for the high street banks, which managed both to appear as impartial financial advisers and to sell their own range of unit trusts and insurance-related investments. Only the National Westminster Bank has decided to become an independent adviser.

Clients should always be sure whether they are dealing with an independent or a tied salesman. The independent advisers have the backing of a multi-million pound advertising campaign paid for by the 14 leading insurance companies, which rely on these independent for their sales.

The Act requires all salesmen to know their clients, so that they offer the most appropriate investments. Under the "best advice" rule they will have to be able to justify recommending a particular company or product. And they will have to secure the best possible terms.

At last, investment advisers will have to keep clients' money separate from their own funds, so that if disaster should strike the company, investors' funds will not go down with the company.



Protecting the investor: Lord Young of Graffham

Young launches a new computerized protection system

By Colin Narbrough

Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday made clear that as the new laws governing the financial services sector come into force today, attention has shifted away from the regulators and practitioners to the investors.

Protecting the investor was the main purpose of the Financial Services Act, which provides the new regulatory framework, but continued attention had to be given to ensuring that the new rules did not stifle competition, he said. That too was in the investors' interest.

He was speaking at the launch of the Investor Protection Register, the computerized information system that allows the public to discover via teletext whether investment businesses are authorized.

From today it will be a criminal offence to conduct investment business without proper authorization.

Assuring the small investor

that it is safe to invest in Britain has been an important part of the Government's strategy to encourage wider ownership of shares, Lord Young said.

Sir Kenneth Berrill, the outgoing chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, said the authorization process had taken longer than expected, which meant that a large number of firms would continue to operate on interim basis.

Asked why the IPR would not provide the names of individuals in investment business, Sir Kenneth said he regretted that the ACT did not require this.

But Lord Elton, chairman of the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Organization, one of the five self-regulating organizations, said SROs kept lists of individuals which offered the necessary insight. Worried investors could check by calling the appropriate SRO.

Downfall for the unscrupulous advisers

The new rules are intended to protect those who entrust others with the task of investing their savings and to put out of business the incompetent or the dishonest.

The small investors who lost £9 million when McDonald Wheeler, the licensed investment firm, collapsed in 1986 know about the problems of putting funds in the wrong hands.

When the Canterbury firm was wound up by the Department of Trade and Industry it was discovered that not only had the company taken £1.3 million of its 1,000 investors' money in management charges, but had also put £4.3 million into a string of private companies.

Investors may, if they are lucky, receive 30p in the pound, according to the accountant who is trying to



Property buys: Keith Hunt

salvage something from a string of commercially ill-judged ventures.

Even though McDonald Wheeler investors appeared to be protected against loss through negligent advice, the insurance company would not pay out. Key executives, including Mr John Wheeler, the owner of the business,



Life of Riley: Justin Frewen

disappeared from Britain and refused to co-operate with investigators.

Justin Frewen, an old Etonian, treated other people's savings like counters on a board game according to the judge who jailed him to two years. In the preceding two years, Frewen, then in his mid-twenties, had "lived a life of

Riley". He flew all over the world, dined at exclusive restaurants, wore handmade shirts and spent thousands on no-expenses spared parties.

When Frewen's company, Imperial Commodities finally failed, creditors and savers were owed £500,000.

Some victims were well-known like Colin Cowdrey, the former England cricket captain. Some, like the members of the rock band, Pink Floyd, were extremely wealthy and lost £2.5 million when Norton Warburg, their advisers, collapsed in 1981. Investors lost about £5 million in the demise of a group which had excellent credentials and the approval of no less exalted an institution than the Bank of England.

The Bank allowed Norton Warburg the privilege of advising those of its staff who

were about to retire on how to make sensible financial decisions about their future.

The regulators never really had a chance to find out what went wrong at Exchange Securities and Commodities. Mr Keith Hunt, its secretive founder and guru, the 20 stone law graduate, disappeared in 1983 and no-one has been able to trace him since. About £11 million also went missing.

Hunt a former Manchester University law graduate caused grief for many of his 2,000 clients who were drawn to the highly risky commodity markets by Hunt's promises of fast and substantial profits. Eventually Hunt began using clients' cash to set up companies and buy property. His only known luxury was a collection of paintings, valued at £1.4 million.

WHERE TO TAKE YOUR COMPLAINTS

Securities and Investments Board
SIB, 3 Royal Exchange Buildings London EC3V 3NL
(01 929 3652) to check whether a firm is authorized. Other inquiries (01 283 2474)

Self-regulatory Organizations
Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers (01 626 9763)
Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Reg Assn (01 929 2711)
Investment Management Regulatory Org (01 379 0601)
The Securities Association (01 256 9000)
Life Assurance and Unit Trust Reg Org (01 379 0444)

Recognized Professional Bodies
The Law Society of England and Wales (01 242 1222)
The Law Society of Scotland (Edinburgh) (031 2287411)
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (01 628 7060)
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (Edinburgh) (031 2255673)
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Dublin) (0001 680400)
Insurance Brokers Registration Council (01 588 4387)
Institute of Actuaries (01 242 0106)
Chartered Assn of Certified Accountants (01 242 6855)
Law Society of Northern Ireland (Belfast) (0232 231614)

Bellway half-time profit up to £3.3m

By Our City Staff

Bellway, the Newcastle group, has added to the growing ranks of housebuilders reporting bumper figures for the interim pretax profits for the six months to end-January up 51 per cent to £3.3 million.

Sales advanced from £31.2 million to £35.3 million. Despite the significant jump in profits, the interim dividend was unchanged at 3p per share. However, the directors intend to review the rate of the final dividend payment at the full-year stage.

Mr Kenneth Bell, the chairman, pointed to Bellway's extensive geographical coverage which gives the group exposure to buoyant trading areas throughout the country.

"A plentiful supply of mortgages at reasonable interest rates, and an abundance of

buyers, makes us optimistic about current trading prospects," he said. "Long-term strategic planning is providing a great deal of confidence for the future," he added.

Mr Bell felt the buoyancy which had previously characterized the South-eastern market was spreading into the rest of the country. This, he anticipated, should push house prices in the provinces higher and add to operating margins.

Bellway's operating margins widened half-year on half-year from 9.3 per cent to 11.4. The 1987-88 results included a contribution from the Golding Group, acquired last year, which operates in Essex, Hertfordshire and the West Midlands. The 1986-87 results have been restated to include Golding's figures.

£11m rise for Norsk Hydro

By Martin Waller

Norsk Hydro, the oil and chemicals group which is Norway's largest publicly-quoted company, raised pretax profits in the first quarter of 1988 to 1.7 billion Norwegian kroner (£153.2 million), up 128 million kroner (£11 million).

Total revenues were up 909 million kroner to 14,698 million kroner. Operating income from agriculture soared — from 33 million kroner to 434 million kroner. Income from oil and gas more than halved from 805 million kroner to 386 million kroner.

But, in contrast, the light metals and petrochemicals divisions both more than doubled their income, with increases of 143 per cent and 168 per cent respectively.

WH Smith wins £25m newspaper contracts

By Alexandra Jackson

WH Smith Group has won an additional £25 million worth of newspaper wholesale contracts at competitive tender from Mirror Group Newspapers, Mail Newspapers Group, Express Newspapers, the Observer and the Telegraph papers.

This increases significantly Smith's share of Sunday newspaper distribution in England and Wales, from 5 per cent to 15 per cent, while marginally adding to its market share in the distribution of daily news-

papers in England and Wales, which now stands at around 35 per cent.

WH Smith recently lost an estimated £40 million in annual sales when the distribution of News International newspaper titles was re-arranged. The award of these new contracts has done much to make up the shortfall.

Daily and Sunday newspaper distribution accounts for about half of WH Smith's total wholesaling turnover of £500 million a year.

Acquisitions lift Molynx

Molynx Holdings, the closed-circuit television equipment maker, raised its profits 52 per cent to £509,000 in calendar 1987, helped by its two acquisitions made last August.

Sales increased by 50 per cent to £3.8 million. The board said the two purchases, Videmach and APS Sheet Metal, were contributing well to profits, with another good year expected in 1988.

The year's dividend is increased to 1.75p, from 1.5p.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.00%
Adams & Company	8.00%
BCCI	8.00%
Consolidated Crds	8.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.00%
C. Hoare & Co	8.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.00%
Joyce Bank	8.00%
Nat Westminster	8.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.00%
TSB	8.00%
Citibank NA	8.00%

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE 158th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 158th Annual General Meeting of the National Mutual Life Assurance Society will be held at The Priory, Priory Park, Hitchin, Hertfordshire on Tuesday, the 31st day of May 1988, at noon for the following purposes:

- to receive and consider the Directors' Report, the Accounts for 1987 and the Auditors' Report thereon;
- to re-elect Directors;
- to re-appoint the Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

A member qualified to vote at the above meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on a poll instead of him. A proxy need not be a member of the Society.

W. P. Jackson
Secretary
29 April 1988

By order of the Board

Southern California Edison Finance Company, N.V. and Southern California Edison Company

Guarantor

12½% Convertible Subordinated Debentures, Due 1997

*CUSIP No. 842400 9A

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of Section 1001 of the Indenture dated as of August 1, 1982 (the "Indenture") among Southern California Edison Finance Company, N.V. (the "Company"), Southern California Edison Company (the "Guarantor"), and Citibank, N.A. (the "Trustee"), the Company has elected to redeem the entire principal amount outstanding of the captioned Debentures on May 31, 1988 (the "Redemption Date") at the redemption price of 101% of the principal amount thereof together with accrued interest to the date of redemption.

The Debentures are convertible at a rate of \$16,1875 per share of Southern California Edison Common Stock ("Common Stock") with cash paid in lieu of fractional shares. No interest will be paid upon conversion of the Debentures. The right to convert Debentures into Common Stock will terminate at 5:00 p.m. local New York time on May 31, 1988. Thereafter, Debenture holders will only be subject to the redemption price of 101% plus accrued interest.

On the Redemption Date, the Debentures shall become due and payable upon presentation and surrender thereof together with all unexpired coupons appertaining thereto (a) at the Corporate Trust Office of Citibank, N.A., 111 Wall Street, 5th Floor, Corporate Trust Services, New York, NY 10043 or (b) subject to any laws or regulations applicable to such payments in the country thereof at the main offices of Citibank, N.A. in London, Brussels, Frankfurt/Main, Paris and the main offices of Citicorp Investment Bank (Switzerland), Zurich, and Citicorp Investment Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., Luxembourg.

The redemption price shall be paid in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of public and private debts and shall be made at the option of the holder at the offices referred to in (b) above by check drawn on, or transfer to a United States dollar account maintained by the payee with a bank in The City of New York.

On and after the Redemption Date, interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON FINANCE COMPANY, N.V.
By Citibank, N.A. Trustee

Dated this 29th day of April 1988.

*This CUSIP number has been assigned by Standard & Poor's Corporation and is included solely for the convenience of the holders. Neither Southern California Edison Company, nor the Trustee shall be responsible for the selection or use of this CUSIP number, nor is any representation made as to its correctness on the 12½% Convertible Subordinated Debentures, Due 1997 or as indicated in any redemption notice.

NOTICE

Withholding of 20% of gross redemption proceeds of any payment made within the United States may be required by the Interest and Dividend Tax Compliance Act of 1983 unless the paying agent has the correct tax identification number (social security or employer identification number) or an exemption certificate from the payee. If you surrender your Debentures for payment in the United States, please furnish a properly completed Form W-9 or exemption certificate or equivalent.

Hoechst

Invitation to the Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at 10 a. m., on Tuesday, 7th June 1988, at the Jahrhunderthalle Hoechst, Frankfurt am Main

Agenda

1. Presentation of the Accounts and situation report of Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft for 1987, with the Report of the Supervisory Board, and the Hoechst Group Accounts and situation report for 1987.

2. Allocation of the profit available for dividend.

It is proposed to pay a dividend of DM 10.— and an anniversary bonus of DM 1.— per share of DM 50.— nominal for the financial year 1987.

3. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Management for 1987.

4. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board for 1987.

5. Election of the Supervisory Board.

6. Authorization to the Board of Management to issue loan stocks carrying rights of subscription for shares of Hoechst AG and resolution concerning a conditional increase of the share capital by DM 250 million.

7. Election of auditors for the financial year 1988.

The full agenda, including the proposed resolutions, is contained in the Bundesanzeiger no. 80 of 28th April, 1988.

Shareholders wishing to be present and to vote at the Meeting must comply with Article 14 of the Articles of Association and deposit their share certificates during usual business hours by Friday, 3rd June 1988, at the latest until after the Meeting, at one of the depositories listed in the Bundesanzeiger no. 80 of 28th April 1988, or in the United Kingdom, at the offices of

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
1 Finsbury Avenue
London EC2M 2PA

Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft
Frankfurt am Main, April 1988

STOCK MARKET

Oil shares boosted by takeover fever

The current wave of bid fever sweeping the stock market switched to the oil sector last night amid reports that several of the second line oil exploration groups were about to come under the hammer.

Ultramar and rival London & Scottish Marine Oil were both being napped as possible targets and stood out in after hours trading with double-figure gains.

Lasmo led the way higher with a rise of 26p to a new peak of 410p on suggestions that RTZ, the mining finance house, had sold part of its near 30 per cent holding to Atlantic Richfield, the US oil group, which recently bought Tricentrol after losing to BP in the battle for control of Britoil. Arco has made no secret of its wish to buy more British oil exploration companies.

But Mr David Ferguson, a director of Lasmo, said: "We have been informed that large chunks of shares have been changing hands through the market. Apart from the RTZ stake, which I know nothing about, there have been some large stakes on the move."

Ultramar also ended the day 26p dearer at 410p as 8 million shares were traded on reports that Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, who already owns 13 per cent of the shares, had been offered 400p a share for his holding. Stockbrokers reckon that a full bid will

follow, valuing Ultramar at £1.1 billion.

Investors adopted a cautious stance ahead of today's British trade figures which are expected to throw up a current account deficit of £500 million.

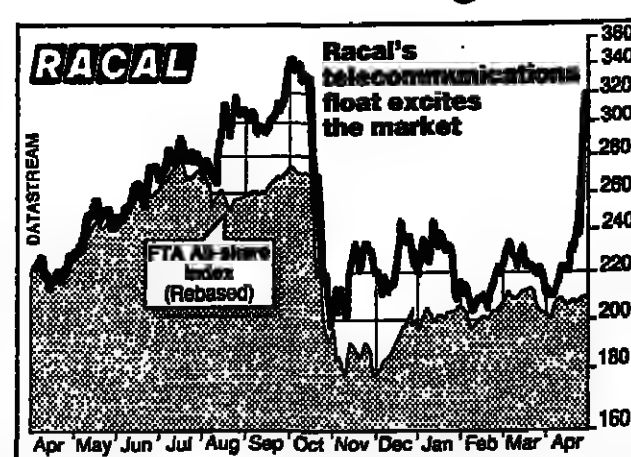
Talk of a rights issue from ICI, accompanying its first-quarter figures, proved wide of the mark. The group weighed in with pretax profits at the top end of brokers' estimates of £358 million (£334 million).

But ICI's performance failed to generate much business. Interest was confined to special situations.

The FT-SE 100 share index recovered an early fall of nearly 11 points to stand 2.8

points higher at about midday before drifting off late as Wall Street showed an early loss to finish 2.3 points down at 1,804.4. The FT 30 share index closed 4.2 points lower at 1,444.7.

Gilt-edged securities lost £½ as fears grew that a poor set of



trade figures today could signal an upturn in interest rates.

BPB Industries, the building materials group, closed at overnight levels of 280p on a turnover of more than 2 million shares.

Late stories doing the rounds in the market last night said that BPB was about to launch a counter-bid for United States Gypsum, currently the target of a \$42-a-share offer from someone else.

The brightest spot of the day was the news that Racal Electronics is considering floating off its telecommunications division, which includes Vodafone, into a separate company. The Racal share price responded with a rise of 72p to 318p as 65 million shares changed hands.

City analysts estimate that the float-off could value the telecom business at £950 mil-

lion compared with £640 million for the rest of the business.

But a number of New York securities houses are claiming that if the rating matched that of most US telecommunications companies, its value would be worth nearer £2 billion. Dividing the worth of both companies by the shares in issue, investors can arrive at a value of about 400p a share.

The timing of the announcement from Sir Ernest Harrison, the chairman, clearly took the City by surprise. Some dealers claim that it is a defensive manoeuvre, forced on Racal after receiving an unwanted advance from Siemens, the West German industrial company. There is talk that it is prepared to offer up to 450p a share.

Racal has been a dull mar-

ket of late — along with the rest of the electronics sector — with profits failing to match market expectations. Analysts are looking for pretax profits of £137 million for the current year compared with £100.3 million last time.

THORN EMI was again a firm market, advancing by 5p to 631p, on persistent speculation that Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, had taken a sizeable holding in the company.

Shares of P&P, the computer distribution company chaired by Professor Roland Smith, made an encouraging start to trading on the big board.

Placed at 175p by J Henry Schroder Wagg & Co, they

Expect news soon of a boardroom reshuffle at Baldwin, the printer and concrete supplier. The word is that Mr David Landau, the chairman, has just approved the appointment of a new chief executive from Kennedy Brookes. Baldwin responded to the news with a rise of 1p to 148p.

opened at 184p and moved narrowly to close at 182p, an opening premium of 7p.

Meanwhile, investors are taking the view that the insurance sector will be the next to attract overseas predators.

Royal Insurance, the biggest British-based, non-life in-

surer, was chased up to 429p at one stage before closing 12p higher at 425p on a turnover of 2.3 million shares.

Buyers' appetites were whetted by talk that Mr John Spalvin's Adelaide Steamship was on the verge of selling its 6 per cent stake in the company to Winterthur, a Swiss group.

Dealers remain sceptical and said that it was hardly likely that Mr Spalvin would sell his stake at current market levels and incur a heavy loss. He paid more than £5 a share for his Royal shareholding last year.

Commercial Union, Britain's second largest composite insurer and a regular takeover favourite — in which Adelaide Steamship also retains a strategic holding — rose by 5p to 338p as more than 2 million shares changed hands.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, announced a strong bounce in the shares ahead of the first-quarter figures next month and is forecasting £46 million against £28.2 million last year.

Cable and Wireless returned to favour with a rise of 12p to 343p. Nearly 6 million shares changed hands as whispers in the market suggested that the company was considering placing 5 per cent of its shareholding in Hong Kong Telecom.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

NEW YORK

Dow dips 8 points in early trading

(Reuters) — Shares were broadly lower in early trading yesterday with blue chips recouping some opening losses. Mr Michael Metz, an Oppenheimer market strategist, said that the drop in jobless claims may have incited fears that the economy is overheating and that the Federal Reserve may tighten interest rates. First-time jobless claims fell to 275,000 in the week ended April 16 from

314,000 in the previous week. The Dow Jones Industrial average fell by 8 points to 2,039.91 after dropping as low as 2,036. Declining shares outnumbered rising ones by two to one. Ford fell by ¼ to 47½ despite a report of record first-quarter earnings which exceeded analysts' expectations. On Wednesday, the Dow average closed 3.15 up at 2,047.91.

TOKYO

Bargain-hunting lifts Nikkei to record level

(Reuters) — Share prices closed sharply up on active bargain-hunting yesterday after Wednesday's fall, taking the Nikkei average to a new peak, despite the overnight passage of a sweeping trade bill by the US Senate, brokers said.

The Nikkei average climbed 242.15 points, or 0.89 per cent, to a record 27,434.12. It lost 54.80 points on Wednesday.

Advancing shares led declining issues by five to two out of turnover of 800 million shares against 750 million the previous day.

Communications, securities, house, electrical, bank, pharmaceutical, credit-lease, airline, warehouse and service shares gained ground.

Only some manufacturing and rolling stocks fell slightly.

SYDNEY

Shares rise in hesitant trade

(Reuters) — Share prices closed slightly higher in fairly quiet trading yesterday, brokers said.

The All-Ordinaries index gained 6.2 points to close at 1,449.8 and the All-Industrials index rose 10.9 points to finish at 2,329.1.

Volume totalled 123.5 million shares. Advancing issues outnumbered declining shares by 255 to 220.

HONG KONG

Prices slip in quiet market

(Reuters) — Share prices closed slightly lower in fairly quiet trading yesterday, brokers said.

The Hang Seng index eased 3.88 points to close at 2,588.14 on turnover of 913.85 million shares against Wednesday's 837.90 million.

Among leaders, Jardine Matheson eased 20 cents to HK\$12.40, Cheung Kong 10 cents to HK\$7.40, and Hutchison Whampoa 5 cents to HK\$8.40.

WALL STREET

AMR Co	42 1/2	43 1/2	Fedders	8 1/2	8 1/2	Pennco	76 1/2	76 1/2
ASA	46 1/2	46 1/2	Firestone	80	79 1/2	Pepaco	36 1/2	36 1/2
Astra Life	43 1/2	43 1/2	Fort Chicago	28 1/2	28 1/2	Pfizer	59 1/2	59 1/2
Atlas Signal	31 1/2	31 1/2	Fort Int'l	25 1/2	25 1/2	Pfizer Div	100	100
Auto Club	11 1/2	11 1/2	First Penn Co	10 1/2	11	Philp Prod	89 1/2	87 1/2
Alcoa	40 1/2	40 1/2	FT Wash	37 1/2	37 1/2	Philp Pri	18	17 1/2
Amstar	21 1/2	21 1/2	Gen Int'l	30 1/2	30 1/2	Phospho	27 1/2	27 1/2
AMR Hse	31 1/2	31 1/2	GAF Co	50 1/2	50 1/2	Primerone	25 1/2	25 1/2
Am Brands	44 1/2	44 1/2	GTE Co	35 1/2	35 1/2	Procter Gble	79 1/2	79 1/2
Am Cymd	48 1/2	48 1/2	Gen Co	35 1/2	35 1/2	Procter K	48 1/2	48 1/2
Am Eln Pwr	26 1/2	26 1/2	Gen Dyam	54 1/2	54 1/2	R Nalisco	52 1/2	52 1/2
Ameco	23 1/2	24 1/2	Gen Electric	40 1/2	40 1/2	Raytheon	88 1/2	88 1/2
Am Family	18 1/2	18 1/2	Gen Int'l	30 1/2	30 1/2	Reagan	18 1/2	18 1/2
Am Home	78 1/2	78 1/2	Gen Mills	47 1/2	47 1/2	Rockwell Int	18 1/2	18 1/2
Am Int Grp	32 1/2	32 1/2	Gen Motors	78 1/2	78 1/2	Royal Dutch	122 1/2	122 1/2
Am Stew	77 1/2	77 1/2	Gen Pub Ut	32 1/2	32 1/2	Sara Lee	39 1/2	39 1/2
Am Telp	26 1/2	26 1/2	Genesee	4 1/2	4 1/2	Sara Lee	39 1/2	39 1/2
Amoco Co	79 1/2	79 1/2	Georgia Psc	40 1/2	40 1/2	Schlumberg	21 1/2	21 1/2
Amstar	31 1/2	31 1/2	Goodrich	41 1/2	41 1/2	Sealed Air	17 1/2	17 1/2
Amco Steel	11 1/2	11 1/2	Goodrich	51 1/2	50 1/2	Seagram	59 1/2	59 1/2
Aerco Inc	34 1/2	34 1/2	Goodyear	94 1/2	94 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
Amco Oil	70 1/2	70 1/2	Good Inc	11 1/2	11 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
Am Richd	89 1/2	89 1/2	Grace Co	28 1/2	27 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
Am Prod	23 1/2	23 1/2	Grat Int'l	35 1/2	35 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
Am Stoen	34 1/2	34 1/2	Greyhound	30 1/2	30 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
Bank NY	31 1/2	31 1/2	Gumam	21 1/2	21 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
Bankamer	10 1/2	10 1/2	Gulf & West	78 1/2	78 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
Bank Int'l	30 1/2	30 1/2	Hercules	49 1/2	49 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
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Bank St	47 1/2	47 1/2	Hawthorn	49 1/2	49 1/2	Seagrass	59 1/2	59 1/2
Bank St	22 1/2	22 1/2	Hawthorn					

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end May 6. Contango day May 9. Settlement day May 16.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

Portfolio
PLUS NEW
Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check the against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright for a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when clearing. (Gains rules appear on the back of your card.)

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Longwood	Industrials S-Z	1.00
2	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	1.00
3	Later	Textiles	1.00
4	Cherfield	Property	1.00
5	Lon Shop	Property	1.00
6	Watson & Philip	Food	1.00
7	Admiral Corp	Industrials S-Z	1.00
8	Secur	Electronics	1.00
9	Indes	Industrials S-Z	1.00
10	Barker (Charles)	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
11	Ford Motor	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
12	Micro Focus	Electronics	1.00
13	Harrold Drace	Property	1.00
14	Regan	Property	1.00
15	Essex Prop	Property	1.00
16	Marler	Property	1.00
17	Ind Scientific	Electronics	1.00
18	SEA	Textiles	1.00
19	Alphabetic	Textiles	1.00
20	Parland A	Textiles	1.00
21	West & Country	Property	1.00
22	Whesco	Industrials S-Z	1.00
23	West Trust	Textiles	1.00
24	Derwent Hides	Textiles	1.00
25	Strong & Fisher	Shoe, Leather	1.00
26	Norton Ops	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
27	Totol	Textiles	1.00
28	KLP	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
29	THORN EMI (sa)	Electronics	1.00
30	Wateridge	Property	1.00
31	Tex Hides	Industrials S-Z	1.00
32	Telcoms	Electronics	1.00
33	Allied Text	Textiles	1.00
34	Wyndham Eng	Industrials S-Z	1.00
35	Soun	Industrials S-Z	1.00
36	Dormo	Electronics	1.00
37	DRG	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
38	Wace	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
39	Lac Refrigeration	Electronics	1.00
40	Machinist Elec	Electronics	1.00
41	Deira Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
42	Admiral Elec	Electronics	1.00
43	LAZ	Motor, Aircraft	1.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Longwood	Industrials S-Z	1.00
2	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	1.00
3	Later	Textiles	1.00
4	Cherfield	Property	1.00
5	Lon Shop	Property	1.00
6	Watson & Philip	Food	1.00
7	Admiral Corp	Industrials S-Z	1.00
8	Secur	Electronics	1.00
9	Indes	Industrials S-Z	1.00
10	Barker (Charles)	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
11	Ford Motor	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
12	Micro Focus	Electronics	1.00
13	Harrold Drace	Property	1.00
14	Regan	Property	1.00
15	Essex Prop	Property	1.00
16	Marler	Property	1.00
17	Ind Scientific	Electronics	1.00
18	SEA	Textiles	1.00
19	Alphabetic	Textiles	1.00
20	Parland A	Textiles	1.00
21	West & Country	Property	1.00
22	Whesco	Industrials S-Z	1.00
23	West Trust	Textiles	1.00
24	Derwent Hides	Textiles	1.00
25	Strong & Fisher	Shoe, Leather	1.00
26	Norton Ops	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
27	Totol	Textiles	1.00
28	KLP	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
29	THORN EMI (sa)	Electronics	1.00
30	Wateridge	Property	1.00
31	Tex Hides	Industrials S-Z	1.00
32	Telcoms	Electronics	1.00
33	Allied Text	Textiles	1.00
34	Wyndham Eng	Industrials S-Z	1.00
35	Soun	Industrials S-Z	1.00
36	Dormo	Electronics	1.00
37	DRG	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
38	Wace	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
39	Lac Refrigeration	Electronics	1.00
40	Machinist Elec	Electronics	1.00
41	Deira Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
42	Admiral Elec	Electronics	1.00
43	LAZ	Motor, Aircraft	1.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Longwood	Industrials S-Z	1.00
2	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	1.00
3	Later	Textiles	1.00
4	Cherfield	Property	1.00
5	Lon Shop	Property	1.00
6	Watson & Philip	Food	1.00
7	Admiral Corp	Industrials S-Z	1.00
8	Secur	Electronics	1.00
9	Indes	Industrials S-Z	1.00
10	Barker (Charles)	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
11	Ford Motor	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
12	Micro Focus	Electronics	1.00
13	Harrold Drace	Property	1.00
14	Regan	Property	1.00
15	Essex Prop	Property	1.00
16	Marler	Property	1.00
17	Ind Scientific	Electronics	1.00
18	SEA	Textiles	1.00
19	Alphabetic	Textiles	1.00
20	Parland A	Textiles	1.00
21	West & Country	Property	1.00
22	Whesco	Industrials S-Z	1.00
23	West Trust	Textiles	1.00
24	Derwent Hides	Textiles	1.00
25	Strong & Fisher	Shoe, Leather	1.00
26	Norton Ops	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
27	Totol	Textiles	1.00
28	KLP	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
29	THORN EMI (sa)	Electronics	1.00
30	Wateridge	Property	1.00
31	Tex Hides	Industrials S-Z	1.00
32	Telcoms	Electronics	1.00
33	Allied Text	Textiles	1.00
34	Wyndham Eng	Industrials S-Z	1.00
35	Soun	Industrials S-Z	1.00
36	Dormo	Electronics	1.00
37	DRG	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
38	Wace	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
39	Lac Refrigeration	Electronics	1.00
40	Machinist Elec	Electronics	1.00
41	Deira Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
42	Admiral Elec	Electronics	1.00
43	LAZ	Motor, Aircraft	1.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Longwood	Industrials S-Z	1.00
2	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	1.00
3	Later	Textiles	1.00
4	Cherfield	Property	1.00
5	Lon Shop	Property	1.00
6	Watson & Philip	Food	1.00
7	Admiral Corp	Industrials S-Z	1.00
8	Secur	Electronics	1.00
9	Indes	Industrials S-Z	1.00
10	Barker (Charles)	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
11	Ford Motor	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
12	Micro Focus	Electronics	1.00
13	Harrold Drace	Property	1.00
14	Regan	Property	1.00
15	Essex Prop	Property	1.00
16	Marler	Property	1.00
17	Ind Scientific	Electronics	1.00
18	SEA	Textiles	1.00
19	Alphabetic	Textiles	1.00
20	Parland A	Textiles	1.00
21	West & Country	Property	1.00
22	Whesco	Industrials S-Z	1.00
23	West Trust	Textiles	1.00
24	Derwent Hides	Textiles	1.00
25	Strong & Fisher	Shoe, Leather	1.00
26	Norton Ops	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
27	Totol	Textiles	1.00
28	KLP	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
29	THORN EMI (sa)	Electronics	1.00
30	Wateridge	Property	1.00
31	Tex Hides	Industrials S-Z	1.00
32	Telcoms	Electronics	1.00
33	Allied Text	Textiles	1.00
34	Wyndham Eng	Industrials S-Z	1.00
35	Soun	Industrials S-Z	1.00
36	Dormo	Electronics	1.00
37	DRG	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
38	Wace	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
39	Lac Refrigeration	Electronics	1.00
40	Machinist Elec	Electronics	1.00
41	Deira Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
42	Admiral Elec	Electronics	1.00
43	LAZ	Motor, Aircraft	1.00

UNDATED

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Longwood	Industrials S-Z	1.00
2	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	1.00
3	Later	Textiles	1.00
4	Cherfield	Property	1.00
5	Lon Shop	Property	1.00
6	Watson & Philip	Food	1.00
7	Admiral Corp	Industrials S-Z	1.00
8	Secur	Electronics	1.00
9	Indes	Industrials S-Z	1.00
10	Barker (Charles)	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
11	Ford Motor	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
12	Micro Focus	Electronics	1.00
13	Harrold Drace	Property	1.00
14	Regan	Property	1.00
15	Essex Prop	Property	1.00
16	Marler	Property	1.00
17	Ind Scientific	Electronics	1.00
18	SEA	Textiles	1.00
19	Alphabetic	Textiles	1.00
20	Parland A	Textiles	1.00
21	West & Country	Property	1.00
22	Whesco	Industrials S-Z	1.00
23	West Trust	Textiles	1.00
24	Derwent Hides	Textiles	1.00
25	Strong & Fisher	Shoe, Leather	1.00
26	Norton Ops	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
27	Totol	Textiles	1.00
28	KLP	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
29	THORN EMI (sa)	Electronics	1.00
30	Wateridge	Property	1.00
31	Tex Hides	Industrials S-Z	1.00
32	Telcoms	Electronics	1.00
33	Allied Text	Textiles	1.00
34	Wyndham Eng	Industrials S-Z	1.00
35	Soun	Industrials S-Z	1.00
36	Dormo	Electronics	1.00
37	DRG	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
38	Wace	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
39	Lac Refrigeration	Electronics	1.00
40	Machinist Elec	Electronics	1.00
41	Deira Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
42	Admiral Elec	Electronics	1.00
43	LAZ	Motor, Aircraft	1.00

INDEX-LINKED

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Longwood	Industrials S-Z	1.00
2	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	1.00
3	Later	Textiles	1.00
4	Cherfield	Property	1.00
5	Lon Shop	Property	1.00
6	Watson & Philip	Food	1.00
7	Admiral Corp	Industrials S-Z	1.00
8	Secur	Electronics	1.00
9	Indes	Industrials S-Z	1.00
10	Barker (Charles)	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
11	Ford Motor	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
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13	Harrold Drace	Property	1.00
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17	Ind Scientific	Electronics	1.00
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39	Lac Refrigeration	Electronics	1.00
40	Machinist Elec	Electronics	1.00
41	Deira Packaging	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
42	Admiral Elec	Electronics	1.00
43	LAZ	Motor, Aircraft	1.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Longwood	Industrials S-Z	1.00
2	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	1.00
3	Later	Textiles	1.00
4	Cherfield	Property	1.00
5	Lon Shop	Property	1.00
6	Watson & Philip	Food	1.00
7	Admiral Corp	Industrials S-Z	1.00
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21	West & Country	Property	1.00
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26	Norton Ops	Paper, Print, Adv	1.00
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28	KLP	Motor, Aircraft	1.00
29	THORN EMI (sa)	Electronics	1.00
30	Wateridge	Property	1.00
31	Tex Hides	Industrials S-Z	1.00
32	Telcoms	Electronics	1

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Starting index compared with 1975 was down at 78.0 (day's range 78.0-78.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for April 28

	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.8730-1.8785	1.8755-1.8785	0.18-0.133p	0.54-0.50p
Monte	2.3022-2.3109	2.3078-2.3110	0.12-0.29p	0.28-0.44p
Amsterdam	3.5081-3.5259	3.5081-3.5110	14-16p	34-36p
Helsinki	63-64.50	63.50-64.00	15-20p	15-20p
Copenhagen	12.0615-12.0710	12.0613-12.0772	8-24p	24-44p
Dublin	1.1710-1.1717	1.1723-1.1730	10-12p	10-12p
Paris	3.7250-3.7300	3.7273-3.7313	10-12p	10-12p
Madrid	256.06-256.47	256.15-256.27	30-40p	183-204p
London	256.55-257.45	256.59-257.45	31-10	31-10
Zurich	229.55-230.14	229.55-230.14	7-10p	10-15p
Oslo	11.5295-11.5810	11.5295-11.5421	34-45p	10p-17p
Paris	10.611-10.615	10.611-10.615	14p-16p	14p-16p
Stockholm	10.0210-10.0260	10.0200-10.0915	11-20p	9p-14p
Tokyo	233.24-234.52	233.24-233.66	1-1p	2p-24p
Venice	22.622-22.627	22.622-22.627	81-74p	81-74p
Frankfurt	2.5622-2.5627	2.5622-2.5654	1-1p	41p-39p

Premium = per £. Discount = dis.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	17.5356-13.6526
Australia dollar	2.4580-2.4711
Bahian dir*	0.7650-0.7700
Brazil cruzeiro	250.82-252.05
Ceylon rupee	0.8300-0.8400
Indonesian rupiah	7.4800-7.5200
Philippine peso	75.00-75.02
Hong Kong dollar	14.9582-14.9590
Indian rupee	3.7518-3.7557
Kuwait dirham	0.5115-0.5155
Malaysia dollar	4.8258-4.8304
Sri Lanka dollar	2.0000-2.0000
New Zealand dollar	2.7832-2.7899
Saudi Arabian riyal	7.0227-7.0255
Singapore dollar	3.7518-3.7557
S Africa rand (fin)	0.2295-0.5133
S Africa rand (com)	0.0264-0.0343
U.S. dollar	0.6567-0.6550
*London Bank Rate, supplied by Ester and Barclays Bank HOFEX.	

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.5970-1.5985	Denmark	6.4225-6.4275	Italy	12400-1241.5
Singapore	2.0075-2.0025	W Germany	1.8880-1.8880	Belgium (Com)	34.95-34.96
Switzerland	1.4975-1.4975	France	5.4627-5.4627	Belgium (Fin)	34.95-34.96
Australia	1.1366-1.1376	Netherlands	1.8705-1.8715	Portugal	136.80-137.00
Canada	0.6900-0.6900	Spain	5.9570-5.9700	110.00-110.00	
Sweden	5.9570-5.9680	Japan	124.55-124.55	Austria	7.7511-7.7511
Norway	6.1400-6.1510				

Rate supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Enco.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates % Clearing Banks & Finsion Hse Bk

Discount Market Loans

Overnight 10p-15p 5% Week 15p-20p

Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Buying 2 min-7% 3 min-7% 4 min-7% 5 min-7% 6 min-7% 7 min-7% 8 min-7% 9 min-7% 10 min-7% 11 min-7% 12 min-7% 13 min-7% 14 min-7% 15 min-7% 16 min-7% 17 min-7% 18 min-7% 19 min-7% 20 min-7% 21 min-7% 22 min-7% 23 min-7% 24 min-7% 25 min-7% 26 min-7% 27 min-7% 28 min-7% 29 min-7% 30 min-7% 31 min-7% 32 min-7% 33 min-7% 34 min-7% 35 min-7% 36 min-7% 37 min-7% 38 min-7% 39 min-7% 40 min-7% 41 min-7% 42 min-7% 43 min-7% 44 min-7% 45 min-7% 46 min-7% 47 min-7% 48 min-7% 49 min-7% 50 min-7% 51 min-7% 52 min-7% 53 min-7% 54 min-7% 55 min-7% 56 min-7% 57 min-7% 58 min-7% 59 min-7% 60 min-7% 61 min-7% 62 min-7% 63 min-7% 64 min-7% 65 min-7% 66 min-7% 67 min-7% 68 min-7% 69 min-7% 70 min-7% 71 min-7% 72 min-7% 73 min-7% 74 min-7% 75 min-7% 76 min-7% 77 min-7% 78 min-7% 79 min-7% 80 min-7% 81 min-7% 82 min-7% 83 min-7% 84 min-7% 85 min-7% 86 min-7% 87 min-7% 88 min-7% 89 min-7% 90 min-7% 91 min-7% 92 min-7% 93 min-7% 94 min-7% 95 min-7% 96 min-7% 97 min-7% 98 min-7% 99 min-7% 100 min-7%

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)

1 min-7% 2 min-7% 3 min-7% 4 min-7% 5 min-7% 6 min-7% 7 min-7% 8 min-7% 9 min-7% 10 min-7% 11 min-7% 12 min-7% 13 min-7% 14 min-7% 15 min-7% 16 min-7% 17 min-7% 18 min-7% 19 min-7% 20 min-7% 21 min-7% 22 min-7% 23 min-7% 24 min-7% 25 min-7% 26 min-7% 27 min-7% 28 min-7% 29 min-7% 30 min-7% 31 min-7% 32 min-7% 33 min-7% 34 min-7% 35 min-7% 36 min-7% 37 min-7% 38 min-7% 39 min-7% 40 min-7% 41 min-7% 42 min-7% 43 min-7% 44 min-7% 45 min-7% 46 min-7% 4

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CAR BUYERS GUIDE

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944S MAN 87E Alpine White/Black Trim Sunroof Fogs 215/60 Tyres
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20000m £21,750
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28000m £9,995

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FERRARI 328 GTS 87D Red/Cream Hide A/C

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Tel: 01-459 0005
Open daily 8.30am-7pm.
Sunday 10am-4pm

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Between 6pm-11pm to launch the exciting
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[illegible]

of youth

Ravinella too powerful for home team in first classic

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

After riding an impeccably judged waiting race, Gary Moore brought Ravinella storming through to pass Dabaweyaa in the last furlong of the General Accident 1,000 Guineas at a packed Newmarket yesterday.

Together with his father, George, who won the first race on Fleet in 1967, the 36-year-old reigning French champion jockey and former champion of Hong Kong became the first father and son combination to capture the



Ravinella (right) shows too much pace for Dabaweyaa (striped cap) in the closing stages of the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket yesterday. Ghariba (centre) finished fourth with third-placed Diminuendo out of shot (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

W hen he first came to the fore, Ravinella was a colt of two, just too good to be taught. He was too powerful for his own good, and his father, George, was too old to be able to control him. But he was too good to be taught, and he was too powerful for his own good.

He has a sharper side and a more powerful force when he is in the saddle. He is a colt of two, just too good to be taught. He was too powerful for his own good, and his father, George, was too old to be able to control him. But he was too good to be taught, and he was too powerful for his own good.

1983. Alce Head, too, was a happy man afterwards, having bred both fillies in partnership with Count Roland de Chambure. "I have two special fillies, Cricquette and Ravinella," he said.

It was a marvellous race to watch. Steve Carthen had no option but to make the running on Diminuendo in order to attempt to blunt the 5-4 favourite's formidable burst of finishing speed. But it was Walter Swinburn on Dabaweyaa who made the vital move when kicking for home at the bushes.

For a few strides Ravinella appeared to be faced with a formidable task. But racing into the Dip it was clear that she had found her stride.

The race was certainly a chapter of accidents for the luckless runner-up. She banged her head in the stalls and came back with her mouth bleeding. Cecil reported. Intimate Guest was then flicked accidentally on the head by Swinburn on Haati.

The 33-1 winner is trained by Clive Brittain, whose enterprise in launching giant-killing raids is so often successful. "She was no form horse," said the trainer afterwards. "And what's more, she is a bit of a maverick. She is both going to run on Saturday, and she is both going to be a bit of a maverick. She is both going to run on Saturday, and she is both going to be a bit of a maverick."

Minster Son to add strength to Hern's hand

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Although Ermson has not come to hand yet, there have still been unmistakable signs recently that Dick Hern's three-year-olds are going to be a force to be reckoned with this season.

First, Unfwin bolted home at Epsom last week; then Golden Wave won at Bath on Tuesday. Today I expect that feeling to be reinforced by Minster Son winning the Newmarket Stakes.

No one will be keener for him to do so than his jockey, a certain William Hunter Carson, who also happens to be his breeder.

In hindsight, Minster Son's form last season stands up to the closest inspection. He began by surprising his connections at Newbury when he beat Unfwin, his better-fancied stable companion.

After that he proved that the result was not a fluke by finishing second to the highly-rated Carmelite House at Kempton. Minster Son's only other race was the Morris Hill Stakes at Newbury where he could manage only fifth place.

Again, though, I maintain that the performance was not what it seemed. He was, especially as the ground had become too soft for him. Glacial Storm, Zelfhi, Galitzin and Harp later, the four who finished in front of him, are all a cut above average.

On a line through Carmelite House, Minster Son's record to fear from Red Glow at these weights because Red Glow could only manage sixth place behind Carmelite House in the Houghton Stakes last autumn.

Half an hour later Carson will be aboard that much improved five-year-old, Almond, in the General Accident Jockey Club Stakes, the day's most valuable race. However, the feeling at Arundel, where he is trained by

Luca Cumani has a soft spot for Carmelite and Tender Whisper should be noted in the Bow Field Maiden Fillies Stakes, a race the Newmarket trainer won last year with a similar type.

Bravo! Tomorrow's bright prospect of a treble with Shine Again (2.15), Raahin (3.50) and Fille D'Esprit (5.0).

Blinkered first time
NEWMARKET, 2.35. Mr. F. CARLISLE, 2.45. Flying Noddy, 3.50. Explosive Spirit.

NEWMARKET

Selections
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.00 Iron King.
2.35 BOLD CITADEL (nap).
3.05 Minster Son.
3.10 Almond.
4.10 Full of Sauce.
5.10 Almond.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.35 BOLD CITADEL (nap).

Going: good Draw: no significant advantage

2.00 ARLINGTON STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,828; 5f) (5 runners)
101 (1) 1 SPENGLERMAN 21 (CJ) (S) P. Yongi W O'Connell 9-2 S. Cawthra 35
102 (2) 2 BOLD CITADEL 17 (CJ) (S) P. Yongi W O'Connell 9-2 S. Cawthra 35
103 (3) 3 IRON KING 4 (P) (C) Sparrowhawk R. Hanson 8-12 S. Cawthra 35
104 (4) 4 SUPERMAN 25 (CJ) (S) P. Yongi W O'Connell 9-2 S. Cawthra 35
105 (5) 5 JERREY THE SWAMP 18 (CJ) (S) P. Yongi W O'Connell 9-2 S. Cawthra 35
BETTING: 4-5 SPENGLERMAN 14-10 (S) 1-2 SPENGLERMAN 16-1 Sweet 'N' Sharp.
1987: COLUMBO 9-2 B. Raymond (4-8) W. Jarvis 10-0.

FORM SPENGLERMAN (9-2) best effort 1987 at Doncaster (11-1) 1st to 2nd to 3rd to 4th to 5th to 6th to 7th to 8th to 9th to 10th to 11th to 12th to 13th to 14th to 15th to 16th to 17th to 18th to 19th to 20th to 21st to 22nd to 23rd to 24th to 25th to 26th to 27th to 28th to 29th to 30th to 31st to 32nd to 33rd to 34th to 35th to 36th to 37th to 38th to 39th to 40th to 41st to 42nd to 43rd to 44th to 45th to 46th to 47th to 48th to 49th to 50th to 51st to 52nd to 53rd to 54th to 55th to 56th to 57th to 58th to 59th to 60th to 61st to 62nd to 63rd to 64th to 65th to 66th to 67th to 68th to 69th to 70th to 71st to 72nd to 73rd to 74th to 75th to 76th to 77th to 78th to 79th to 80th to 81st to 82nd to 83rd to 84th to 85th to 86th to 87th to 88th to 89th to 90th to 91st to 92nd to 93rd to 94th to 95th to 96th to 97th to 98th to 99th to 100th to 101st to 102nd to 103rd to 104th to 105th to 106th to 107th to 108th to 109th to 110th to 111th to 112th to 113th to 114th to 115th to 116th to 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FOOTBALL

Cause for concern as England's early promise fades

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

England have yet to make any progress on their road towards the European championship. If anything, since qualifying for the finals by winning 4-1 in Yugoslavia, last November, the side that was then considered the joint favourites with West Germany for the title have gone backwards.

The prospects looked so promising in Belgrade. Bobby Robson had designed a formation that was secure at the back, where Adams had joined Butcher, constructive in the middle, where Webb had been brought in to accompany Bryan Robson, and dangerous at the front, where Barnes was carrying additional menace.

In spite of the contentious omission of the most gifted creator, Hoddle, the line-up seemed to be complete. In the advance towards the tournament in June, Robson apparently needed only to make sure that none of the replacements in his shadow squad was left behind during the preparations.

But over the last five months the whole party, with the notable exception of the captain, has been on the retreat. First, and most significantly, Butcher broke his leg. In his absence, the once solid back four has cracked as well and is now in a state of alarming confusion.

One of the central defenders Bobby Robson is now considering, for example, is a new boy from the second division. Pallister, promoted ahead of schedule, was so composed

during his debut against Hungary on Wednesday that he is certain to be selected for at least one of the three international matches next month.

"I am not going to get too excited about him," Robson said, "but he was so accomplished that I have to have another look at him. We may have another international on our hands." Yet England's manager appreciates that the Middlesex centre half, aged 22, has "a lot to learn".

Ideally, he would continue his international education later in the year. Realistically, the other contenders (Watson and Wright) are so vulnerable that Pallister, one of eight representatives on the edge of contention, could yet claim one of the two remaining vacancies in the party to be announced on May 30.

Pallister, never before recognised by England at any level, was appreciably sounder in Budapest than his more experienced partner, Adams. The decline of Arsenal's captain, introduced a year ago but whose promise has since been overshadowed by his arrogance, is matched by his club colleague, Sansom.

Discontented at Highbury, the distracted left back has made only one appearance since collecting his 79th cap in Yugoslavia. Against the Netherlands last month, it was one of his least distinguished. But Pearce, his lone deputy, is fearfully inadequate, as was once more confirmed even

before he was injured in midweek.

Thus, of the defensive quartet that was assembled around Butcher, only Stevens has retained his form and his right to a place. Webb, excluded even from the list of substitutes against the Hungarians, has lost both in midfield and is unlikely to win them back within the next five weeks.

The same January, but by now, had taken Apricot, Ballimore's previous 60-foot trimaran, the best part of a day, had required the building of a special cradle and two weeks of work to get it ready.

Ballimore's new trimaran is probably Britain's best hope of a win in this year's Carlsberg single-handed transatlantic race, but the boat is desperately late. She will probably not sail on her maiden voyage until mid-May: the race starts on June 5.

Ballimore and his yacht should have completed a 500-mile qualifying cruise—required to prove the safety of all transatlantic entrants—by March 31, but in view of Ballimore's previous experience, the race organizers granted the new boat dispensation to qualify after the deadline.

Ballimore is confident that Spirit of Apricot can still beat the French fleet which again dominates the quadrilateral race. "She's quite similar to my previous Apricot," he said, "but a lot more refined. At nearly a ton lighter, she's going to be very fast."

"I've been over in France. They're good, without a doubt. But we can beat them."

Without Barnes, England's wings did not flap with any power. Since Waddle's contribution was limited by his lack of fitness and the unusually ineffective Beardsley, perhaps by fatigue, the attack was borne by Lineker, who is suffering from a painful toe injury that may afflict him still this summer.

England, though denied an early penalty, were as fortunate as the Hungarians lacked the finishing touch. Robson, who felt that McMahon and Pallister should both have scored, would have been "eminently satisfied" with a 2-0 victory. Instead his side was held to the fourth goalless draw in the last nine fixtures.

Alan Ball, his old England colleague.

"He trekked back, worked people, tackled, and when he was given the ball he showed what an aggressive player he was by going at defenders."

Yugoslavia suffered the loss of a leading player, in their cynical attempt to halt the Irish youngster. "The beauty of it was that it was not the first man who was kicking him, but the second," Charlton remarked.

Sheridan, stepping into Brady's shoes, seemed to fit a little more easily on his second appearance. "He looks more settled. He seems to like the game we give him to play. He's just got to be more aggressive going forward."

Whether it was Sheridan or McGrath that Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, had come to watch, he could not have been too disappointed with either. While many thought that McGrath's performance only confirmed how ill-suited he was to the role, Charlton conceded that he is the right man for the job as much as to the back four.

His central pair of McCarthy and Moran were hardly the ones that needed protecting as they launched assaults on the opposition which produced both goals. Clearly, Charlton would never have promoted O'Leary, even if he were fit, ahead of them. Morris, the right back, is the only defender who has still to convince Charlton.

David Kelly, winning his third cap, was again full of the devilry that the Irish have been lacking in attack. Skill to play alongside Aldridge, one of several absentees, Kelly could be the perfect foil. His usefulness running ought to help Aldridge get off the mark after 13 caps without a goal.

Not that the midfield was idle. Mark Kelly, aged 18, the Portsmouth reserve winger, gave a more assured performance than while proving himself to come.

"He's been taught exactly the right way," Charlton said, which was an obvious compliment to the young player.

When Andy Roxburgh sat down yesterday to review the world of Scotland's excursion to Spain, the performance of the Bernabéu stadium was of secondary importance. Instead, the scenes in the streets outside, as the Scottish team bus was bombarded with lumps of stone and concrete and another journalist was attacked by a mob, provided the principal talking point.

"I found it a terrifying experience," the Scottish coach said. "We had no idea what was going on and in fact we thought we might be the target for terrorists. It was like a rocket attack when the windows of the bus started to go in. I ran upstairs to see the players lying on the deck showered with glass."

"I think it was a distinct possibility that we might have come away with a death on our hands. In Willie Miller's case a rock was just in front of his head and another just behind him. Jack McGinn, the Celtic chairman, was almost brained by a piece of marble which came through the window beside him."

Meanwhile Roxburgh is satisfied that on the field the Scots acquitted themselves efficiently and pointed out that the draw in Spain was preceded by victories against Hungary, Belgium and Bulgaria. He acknowledged that the team needed attacking flair and authority in midfield. "If we had been drawn in a World Cup section with these teams and achieved such results we would have finished top of the table."

And Black's contribution was among the reasons Bingham is looking to the future with optimism. "I was pleased with Northern Ireland's performance. The team is starting to take shape and I am beginning to feel more optimistic. We have some great young talent."

Black was born in Luton 19 years ago and won international recognition as a schoolboy with England. But his father, who was a footballer, died when he was 10, and he was brought up in a working-class area of Luton.

The tug of war that went on between Bingham and Bobby Robson, the England manager, requires no further elaboration. Suffice to say Black chose green, not white.

It is not easy, nor is it prudent, to pass judgement on a player's capabilities for what the future may hold after he has spent only a fleeting 30 minutes on the international stage. And that in a friendly match that was boring the pants of most of those who were at Windsor Park on Wednesday, when Northern Ireland played a goalless draw against France.

But when Bingham substituted Black for Dennis, the Wolverhampton Wanderers winger, who made an excellent international debut, the crowd gave vent to their feelings with an almighty roar. And when Black, with his first touch of the ball, produced a superb run down the left flank which left two defenders trailing in his wake before putting over a centre that Martin, the French goalkeeper, did well to gather fractionally before Clark, this hitherto humdrum affair took on a new meaning.

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YACHTING: TIME IS AGAINST BRITISH CHALLENGER

Spirit of the sky in race to be ready

Tony Ballimore, Britain's top solo sailor, watched anxiously yesterday as the Sikorsky helicopter hovered 80 feet above a farmyard just outside Bristol, lifting Spirit of Apricot.

Ballimore's new 60-foot racing trimaran, into the air (Malcolm McKee writes).

Moments later, the three peacocks of the two-and-a-half-ton craft were winging their way across the fields towards Bristol Royal Dock. Five minutes later, the trimaran was safely in the water and the Sikorsky was on her way back to collect the yacht's mast.

The same January, but by now, had taken Apricot, Ballimore's previous 60-foot trimaran, the best part of a day, had required the building of a special cradle and two weeks of work to get it ready.

Ballimore's new trimaran is probably Britain's best hope of a win in this year's Carlsberg single-handed transatlantic race, but the boat is desperately late. She will probably not sail on her maiden voyage until mid-May: the race starts on June 5.

Ballimore and his yacht should have completed a 500-mile qualifying cruise—required to prove the safety of all transatlantic entrants—by March 31, but in view of Ballimore's previous experience, the race organizers granted the new boat dispensation to qualify after the deadline.

Ballimore is confident that Spirit of Apricot can still beat the French fleet which again dominates the quadrilateral race. "She's quite similar to my previous Apricot," he said, "but a lot more refined. At nearly a ton lighter, she's going to be very fast."

"I've been over in France. They're good, without a doubt. But we can beat them."

Without Barnes, England's wings did not flap with any power. Since Waddle's contribution was limited by his lack of fitness and the unusually ineffective Beardsley, perhaps by fatigue, the attack was borne by Lineker, who is suffering from a painful toe injury that may afflict him still this summer.

England, though denied an early penalty, were as fortunate as the Hungarians lacked the finishing touch. Robson, who felt that McMahon and Pallister should both have scored, would have been "eminently satisfied" with a 2-0 victory. Instead his side was held to the fourth goalless draw in the last nine fixtures.

Alan Ball, his old England colleague.

"He trekked back, worked people, tackled, and when he was given the ball he showed what an aggressive player he was by going at defenders."

Yugoslavia suffered the loss of a leading player, in their cynical attempt to halt the Irish youngster. "The beauty of it was that it was not the first man who was kicking him, but the second," Charlton remarked.

Sheridan, stepping into Brady's shoes, seemed to fit a little more easily on his second appearance. "He looks more settled. He seems to like the game we give him to play. He's just got to be more aggressive going forward."

Whether it was Sheridan or McGrath that Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, had come to watch, he could not have been too disappointed with either. While many thought that McGrath's performance only confirmed how ill-suited he was to the role, Charlton conceded that he is the right man for the job as much as to the back four.

His central pair of McCarthy and Moran were hardly the ones that needed protecting as they launched assaults on the opposition which produced both goals. Clearly, Charlton would never have promoted O'Leary, even if he were fit, ahead of them. Morris, the right back, is the only defender who has still to convince Charlton.

David Kelly, winning his third cap, was again full of the devilry that the Irish have been lacking in attack. Skill to play alongside Aldridge, one of several absentees, Kelly could be the perfect foil. His usefulness running ought to help Aldridge get off the mark after 13 caps without a goal.

Not that the midfield was idle. Mark Kelly, aged 18, the Portsmouth reserve winger, gave a more assured performance than while proving himself to come.

"He's been taught exactly the right way," Charlton said, which was an obvious compliment to the young player.

When Andy Roxburgh sat down yesterday to review the world of Scotland's excursion to Spain, the performance of the Bernabéu stadium was of secondary importance. Instead, the scenes in the streets outside, as the Scottish team bus was bombarded with lumps of stone and concrete and another journalist was attacked by a mob, provided the principal talking point.

"I found it a terrifying experience," the Scottish coach said. "We had no idea what was going on and in fact we thought we might be the target for terrorists. It was like a rocket attack when the windows of the bus started to go in. I ran upstairs to see the players lying on the deck showered with glass."

"I think it was a distinct possibility that we might have come away with a death on our hands. In Willie Miller's case a rock was just in front of his head and another just behind him. Jack McGinn, the Celtic chairman, was almost brained by a piece of marble which came through the window beside him."

Meanwhile Roxburgh is satisfied that on the field the Scots acquitted themselves efficiently and pointed out that the draw in Spain was preceded by victories against Hungary, Belgium and Bulgaria. He acknowledged that the team needed attacking flair and authority in midfield. "If we had been drawn in a World Cup section with these teams and achieved such results we would have finished top of the table."

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The tug of war that went on between Bingham and Bobby Robson, the England manager, requires no further elaboration. Suffice to say Black chose green, not white.

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The unsavoury side of Test cricket surfaces again as West Indies tour ends in anger



A battle averted: Abdul Qadir (left) is led away from the crowd by Hafiz Jahid, a team-mate, and Albert Auguste, the fan who was involved in the fracas, is interviewed by police

Qadir cleared of punching a spectator

From Richard Streeton, Bridgetown, Barbados

In a crowded few hours between the end of the third Test match and leaving for Karachi via London, Abdul Qadir, the Pakistan leg spinner, appeared at the local magistrates' court here on Wednesday to answer an assault charge brought by the local police. They served the summons on Qadir as the Pakistan team left the field after an incident in which Qadir punched a spectator.

When the case was heard Qadir pleaded not guilty to beating Albert Auguste, the spectator concerned. Auguste, aged 21 and a car-wash attendant, declined to give evidence and the magistrates dismissed the charge.

Auguste was persuaded not to proceed with his complaint when he attended an inquiry at a hastily convened disciplinary meeting of the West Indies Board of Control after the match.

It is understood that the

Pakistan team management agreed later to make a public apology regretting the incident and to compensate Auguste financially for any physical injury he had received. The sum paid is believed to have been Barb \$2,000 (about £540).

The incident happened when Qadir and his team-mates had vehement appeals for a leg-before decision rejected. Qadir was fuming as he returned to long leg. After further heckling from the crowd he ran into a group of spectators, exchanged angry words and threw a punch.

Auguste's hand was examined afterwards by a doctor and he was then questioned by police. They also discussed the row with a former Barbados attorney-general who was watching the game. Neither West Indian nor Pakistan cricket officials are expected to take any further action against Qadir.

Unsavoury end to Pakistan tour

From Richard Streeton

Ten seconds of madness from Abdul Qadir will be remembered far longer than anything else that happened during the enthralling Test series between West Indies and Pakistan which ended here on Wednesday. The punch Qadir threw at a spectator did much more than land the player in court on an assault charge and what has mostly been a happy tour on the last day.

Qadir's violent reaction to the harracking which ensued after he and his team had behaved petulantly when a leg-before appeal was turned down, has left an indelible bluish on Test cricket that the game can ill afford at this time. It also humiliated the reputation of Pakistan in world cricket yet again.

It brings no pleasure to write in this vein having been warmly welcomed both in Pakistan in the past and as a camp follower with the team in recent weeks. But Qadir's behaviour was unforgivable, and any cricketeer liable to assault spectators whatever the provocation should not be selected again to represent his country.

What made the incident so tragic was that Qadir has enjoyed a good relationship with West Indian supporters throughout the tour. They have revelled in his twisting, corkscrew approach run; they have admired his skill and roared with delight when he orchestrated their cheers while he fielded on the boundary. Spectators in the stands that reviled him on Wednesday were eating out of his hand earlier in the match.

Initially the crowd was linked by the aggressive way the majority of the Pakistanis surrounded the umpire, David Archer, and screamed their protest when he rejected their appeal for a last-past catch.

Not for the first time in recent years, five or six Pakistanis sank their teeth into the pleading with arms outstretched. It is an unedifying sight, and nothing more than

an objectionable attempt at mass persuasion. It should be stopped by the Pakistan authorities. Qadir then snatched his cap from Archer.

Intikhab Alam, the Pakistan manager, masks a professional approach with geniality and realism, and he has played enough cricket to know what is acceptable and what is not. Intikhab has only just started a three-year appointment and has not yet had time to eradicate faults tolerated by his predecessors. He must act quickly, however, if further disputes and damage to Pakistan's reputation are to be avoided.

Imran Khan, the captain, is also a man of strict principle in some ways, and it is surprising that he has not demanded better behaviour when appeals are made. The Pakistanis very

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quickly closed ranks after Qadir was charged with assault. We were told that Qadir earlier had had stones thrown at him; that he had been the target for bad language; and that Pakistan itself had been insulted in abusive remarks.

All one can say is that none of this was apparent from the open press box 15 yards from where Qadir was fielding. It emphasized, perhaps, a basic difference in thinking and behaviour that several Pakistani players were surprised that the cricket authorities had not been able to interfere with the police action in charging Qadir.

Intikhab said he did not expect any disciplinary action to be taken against Qadir in Pakistan, and this particular episode is also closed as far as West Indian officials are concerned. It is far from closed, presumably, in the general sense, as officials everywhere wrestle with the growing problem of bad behaviour in the game.

English plans to stage the 1996 Olympic Games provide a tale of two cities

Birmingham's experience is a key factor

By Louise Taylor

The city once dubbed the workshop of the world was in confident mood yesterday as Birmingham's plans to host the 1996 Olympic Games were outlined by a special committee, including the former Minister for Sport, Denis Howell, MP, and city council representatives.

With the valuable experience gained during its unsuccessful bid for the 1992 Olympics behind them, Birmingham is optimistic of securing the British nomination when the British Olympic Association chooses between it and Manchester on May 19.

The IOC ultimately awarded the 1992 Games to Barcelona, which was mounting its fourth bid. Denis Howell hopes Birmingham will emulate the Basques - but at the second attempt. "Experience and dedication are two characteristics in which we will not be found wanting," he said. "Birmingham is undoubtedly the sporting capital of Britain and evidence of the IOC's recognition of our quality is their decision to hold their 1991 conference here."

Howell declared: "No city in the world could be more secure than Birmingham, we have outstanding facilities and our bid is financially viable."

Indeed the once recession-blighted city is currently the recipient of a £200-million refurbishment, and the abundance of existing facilities is

expected to reduce capital costs by 6 per cent.

Jimmy Munn, the director of the city's recreation and community services department, said: "For 1996 we will only require the building of the Olympic stadium. Everything else is on the ground."

He regards the national exhibition centre (NEC) as the jewel in Birmingham's Olympic crown. "The NEC is exceptional, it is the largest sports complex in Western Europe."

Indeed the NEC would house all indoor sport plus the athletes' village and media centre and with the Olympic stadium planned for an adjacent site for the first time in Olympic history, athletes would be able to walk from the village to the stadium. From a spectators' viewpoint communications are excellent. The NEC is conveniently placed for Birmingham International Airport and has easy access to six motorways.

Events not held in the NEC would be staged within a class radius and Munn said: "This must be the most compact bid of all time. It is revolutionary."

A further factor in Birmingham's favour is the worldwide recognition the city now enjoys for staging major events. International motor racing, the Horse of the Year Show, the European skating championships and present bids to host the world skating and gymnastic championships are all impressive examples of the city's elevated sports status.

Hopes buoyant along Manchester ship canal

By David Miller

Three years ago Bob Scott, an energetic Mancunian entrepreneur, invited the British Olympic Association to look at the redundant Salford Quays on the decaying Manchester ship canal as a potential site for the Olympic Games. Lacking his vision, they saw nothing but dereliction. They gave the idea five votes; Birmingham's project, build around the National Exhibition Centre, received 25, and a disorganized London a mere two.

Today, the bleak, moldering relic of the industrial revolution, shrewdly conceived as a means of bringing maritime wealth to land-locked Manchester at about the same times as de Coubertin relaunches the Olympic ideal, is visible as a thriving, imaginative redevelopment scheme. When the BOA meet on May 19 to decide once more between two rival provincial cities bidding for 1996, Scott's claim is substantially more credible. And, I believe, more worthy than Birmingham's.

That is not to denigrate the admirable efforts made by Denis Howell - for Birmingham. Yet the BOA may care to consider that the International Olympic Committee's dismissive eight votes, when determining the hosts for 1992, was not as Howell suggested, a preference for Barcelona that had nothing to do with sport, but possibly a reflection of their opinion of Birmingham as a city; and of the NEC site as a non-sporting temporary expediency. Howell's campaign did much for Birmingham's international commercial publicity but rather less for British sport.

What Scott, and his private-sector financed campaign, now has to offer is something which, more than Birmingham, will leave a post-Games sporting legacy for the quarter of Britain's population, over 15 million, who are within one hour's drive of Manchester.

With a permanent main



Vision of the future: Bob Scott with his plans for 1996

stadium at Waste Quarry that will upstage Wembley and be part of an 'Olympic City' of multi-sports stadiums, and a temporary village of purpose-built accommodation in 300 green acres alongside the M63, Manchester's bid, allied to the city's international renowned cultural breadth and its transport network, would have to be seriously viewed by the IOC.

Scott has an established success in the theatrical field, and knows the hard-nosed market of the commercial and leisure field rather better than some of Birmingham's well-intentioned but internationally inexperienced councillors. Yet he is realistic.

"The long-term view must be that no British city can be favourite for the Centenary Games in a field with, probably, Athens, Toronto and Brisbane," he says. "But having seen the IOC at work in

Lausanne, in Los Angeles and Calgary I know that experience of their ways and attitudes is essential. I want to get Manchester in the framework, if nothing else than for 2004 or 2008."

Scott's view is that what was previously Manchester's apparent disadvantage, a private sector bid in a depressed area, is now its strength. Embracing a north-west region that includes, imaginatively, Liverpool for boxing and half of the football; Cheshire/north Wales for equestrianism and possibly rowing and yachting (at present scheduled for Nottingham and Weymouth), the Manchester committee can woo three Urban Development Corporations for support: Trafford Park, Central Manchester and Mersey.

"Our investment in sports facilities will fall within the bounds of this government's urban development plan of



THE NORTH WEST OLYMPIC BID

£2 billion over the next five years," he says. The three respective UDC chairmen, Peter Hadfield, James Grigor and Philip Carter, will all be on the bid committee, which is likely to receive, indirectly, the support of departmental ministers, Kenneth Clark, Trade and Industry, Nicholas Ridley, Environment, and Lord Young, Employment.

Trafford Park is already an urban dream taking shape in leisure and light industry. At the same time, the BOA should be tempted by the promise of Manchester's Labour city council to build a multi-sports indoor arena on the Lower Mosley Street site, aimed at mass sport participation, if the bid is successful. This would be alongside the splendidly adapted old Central Station now a vast exhibition hall which would stage gymnastics and the finals of volleyball and basketball. Next door is the modernized Midland Hotel, proposed IOC headquarters, and conveniently, for security, an island site.

From May 19, there would be two years to publicize internationally Manchester's bid before the IOC vote on the Centenary hosts in 1990; then six years still to adjust the plans if necessary.

Thorburn squanders gilt-edged chances

By Steve Acton

Steve Davis and Cliff Thorburn fought a tough and largely inconclusive first seven frames in their best-of-11 Embassy world snooker championship semi-final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre last night. Thorburn taking the last two frames to 4-3.

Thorburn, well rested after his late-night victory over Steve James on Wednesday, struck home a confidence-building clearance from the last red of 32 to take the opening frame but then, despite a run of 62, squandered two gilt-edged chances for a 2-0 lead.

First, seven points ahead, he missed the final black which was only six inches from the top right-hand pocket. Davis forced a re-spot, Thorburn missed again and eventually Davis doubled it to level at 1-1 and began a four-frame winning streak which included breaks of 55 and 104.

Thorburn, the 1980 champion from Canada, won the last two frames, however, against the champion, who has figured in the last five successive finals.

Davis apart, it is doubtful if anyone puts in more time on the practice table during a normal season than Terry

Griffiths. This, however, has been no normal season and no normal Embassy world championship for the engaging Welsh champion, who has failed in five quarter-finals to reach the semi-finals since winning the title at his first attempt in 1979.

On four of those occasions he has lost to Davis but he at last made it on Wednesday when he beat his close friend, Neal Foulds, to reach the last four, where yesterday he began a best-of-31 frames encounter of the gruelling kind with Jimmy White.

While Griffiths was glowing with contentment his manager, Barry Hearn, was bursting with pride after seeing four of his eight players - the others being Davis and Thorburn - occupying all four semi-final places.

SEMI-FINAL RESULTS: S Davis (Eng) leads C Thorburn (Can) 4-3. Frame scores (Davis first): 55-27, 75-68, 75-1, 65-10, 104-24, 52-57, 52-74.

England fans face three years in jail

Budapest (Reuters) - Seven

England football supporters could face up to three years in a Hungarian jail following an incident at a disco here, when two employees were injured and nearly 2800 worth of damage was caused after the Hungary v England international on Wednesday.

"After the rioting fans were called on to leave, they continued rioting on the street, damaging several cars and throwing beer bottles and stones," MTI, the Hungarian agency reported. The Britons are expected to be tried within a week.

Colin Francis, the British vice-consul, said he had interviewed the detainees and discussed legal assistance, but all opted for free representation through the Hungarian authorities.

Colin Moylan, the Minister for Sport, described the arrests as a setback to clubs' hopes of a return to European competition, adding that supporters were faced with increased provocation while their behaviour was under scrutiny.

Moylan called on English supporters to avoid the European championships in West Germany this summer: "Our fans should not travel because they will be subject to provocation."

Investigation team named

The British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) yesterday named the three investigators who could make or break Zola Budd's running career.

The board has nominated a Queen's Counsel, Edward Cazalet, to lead the committee of investigation into Budd's eligibility to compete internationally. He will be joined by Marea Hartman, the honorary secretary of the

Women's Amateur Athletic Association, and Ron Goodman, a former president of the Amateur Athletic Association.

The Board Council announced on Sunday, in response to the International Amateur Athletic Federation's call for it to suspend Budd for at least 12 months for "taking part" in an event in her native South Africa last year, that it would carry out its own

investigation into her eligibility.

The trio's debate will centre on the well-publicized Brankpan meeting in Transvaal last June. Budd, who did not compete in the cross-country race there, was seen training and encouraging the runners, which was enough for the IAAF to declare that she had broken her eligibility rules.

Player is defaulted

Juan Rios, of Puerto Rico, was disqualified from his quarter-final match in the Hi-Tec satellite tennis tournament at Sutton yesterday. After losing the first set Rios, who had already been warned and docked a penalty point, aimed a serve at the umpire, John Bryson.

Notice served

Horace Notice, the British and Commonwealth heavyweight champion, who is unbeaten in his 16 professional contests, has been named as the challenger for the European championship held by the Italian, Francesco Damiani.

King signs on

Colin King, the former West Indian Test all-rounder, will today sign a one-year contract as the professional for the Central Lancashire League cricket club, Oldham.

Club honours

Widnes, the Rugby League champions, and the second division title winners, Oldham, yesterday received congratulatory letters from the newly formed all party Rugby League group in the House of Commons.

Rich reward

The testimonial held last year for Clive Radley, the former England and Middlesex batsman, realized £148,911.

AAA support

The Amateur Athletics Association has confirmed its commitment to the London Docklands Arena amid rumours that it was withdrawing support.

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